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BCBC refuses to confirm or deny £100,000 'compensation' for walkway disruption to Ogmore fishing rights

MYSTERY OVER THE COUNCIL'S BIG PAY-OUT TO TOWN ANGLERS

Report by JAYNE ISAAC

A SECRET payment has been made by Bridgend County Borough Council to the Ogmore Anglers' Association (OAA).

No details of how much is involved or why the payment has been made have been disclosed by the council to The GEM, despite repeated questioning, because of a 'gagging' order made by the courts.

But The GEM has discovered through use of the Freedom of Information procedures that the council has paid more than £26,000 to counsel to represent it. This is on top of the sum actually paid out to the OAA.

The council has confirmed to The GEM, following our two Freedom of Information requests, that it has paid an "appropriate" sum to the anglers, in recognition of their property rights,

But it says that the details of the court proceedings are secret because of a confidentiality clause imposed by a court order.

The transaction will be included in the council's statement of accounts when they go to audit, but the council has refused to confirm or deny that the sum involved exceeds £100,000.

The council has also refused to say why it has had to pay the money to the anglers, although The GEM understands that it involves the installation of the river walkway and footbridge, which caused disruption to their fishing rights along this stretch of river.

The angling association is, so The GEM understands, unable to disclose any detail of this settlement to any outside parties because of the court order.

After further questions from The GEM, asking about when the court case was held, we were told that there was no court case and that the case was resolved before the trial and that agreement was then included in a consent order made by the court.

We asked who had requested the confidentiality clause and were told that both parties had agreed to this.

When asked what constituted an "appropriate sum", the council stated that it was an amount based on the advice of a QC and expert property witness.

When pressed about how the anglers' property rights were violated, the council said that this information was confidential and could not be disclosed.

The Freedom of Information request was rejected because to disclose the information would constitute contempt of court.

The GEM has this week received a response to our further questions on this: We asked how much the case has cost council taxpayers in legal fees and have been told that fees to counsel amounted to £26,150.

All other matters relating to OAA were dealt with by the council's own legal section.

The council refused to answer a question about why it had agreed to a confidentiality clause when public money was involved and whether or not it was done to save embarrassment to the council because procedures were not correctly followed.

The issue has been raised this week at the council meeting by Coun Ken Watts of Porthcawl, who has asked a series of written questions about why the council has been forced to pay out public money and why it agreed to a gagging clause.

He has also asked how this item will be listed in the council's accounts at the end of the financial year.

He was due to get his answer as The GEM was going to press on Wednesday afternoon.

RIGHT: The sun shone and the children were let out early from school to enjoy the ever-popular Maesteg Hospital Fete. Mandy Thomas from The GEM was there to captures the smiling faces. *(See pages 26 & 27)*

Man escapes jail term after partner forgives him for 'vicious attack'

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A pregnant woman was the victim of a "sustained vicious assault" at the hands of her partner in the car park of a Bridgend pub.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that 34-year-old Clair Palfrey told the police: "I'll never forgive him for this."

But this week she stood in the witness box and told Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones: "He is now a different man, completely supportive, we hope to get married soon".

Kenneth Pope (36) of Bridgend, had admitted causing her actual bodily harm.

He was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, made subject to an 18-month supervision order and directed to attend a domestic abuse programme.

Said the Judge: "I find female instincts very mysterious. You carried out what was a sustained and vicious attack, but you seem to have put right some of your problems.

"If you come back here, there won't be another chance."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said the couple went to a pub on February 13, having been together four or five months, and Miss Palfrey was 15 weeks pregnant with his child .

They left the pub in Coity Road and in the car park, Pope 's mood changed and he challenged the parentage of the unborn child.

Miss Palfrey became upset, was pushed against the wall and fell to the ground.

Pope said he was going to kill himself.

When she said the relationship was over, it made matters worse and he grabbed her by the throat, punched her several times and kneed her in the abdomen.

"She lost consciousness and came to, to find Pope on top of her, saying: "I love you to bits".

People heard her hysterical screams and pleas for help and saw Pope flee from the scene.

She was treated for her injuries at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Miss Palfrey told the court that at the time Pope was very drunk.

She said: "He has changed completely and has been tested negative for drugs and alcohol."

Said his defence counsel, Hugh Wallace, "He has shown more than remorse."

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PORTHCAWL REGENERATION MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!
(See all the details on page 14)

Man robbed in Porthcawl

POLICE are appealing for information after a 30-year-old local man was assaulted and robbed at 7pm on June 15 at Sandy Lane, Porthcawl.

'The victim was walking along the lane when he met a group of about six males. Two of them assaulted him and robbed him of a small amount of money before fleeing," a spokeswoman said.

Detective Constable Gareth Cridland added: "This was an unprovoked attack in broad daylight and we are determined to bring the perpetrators to justice."

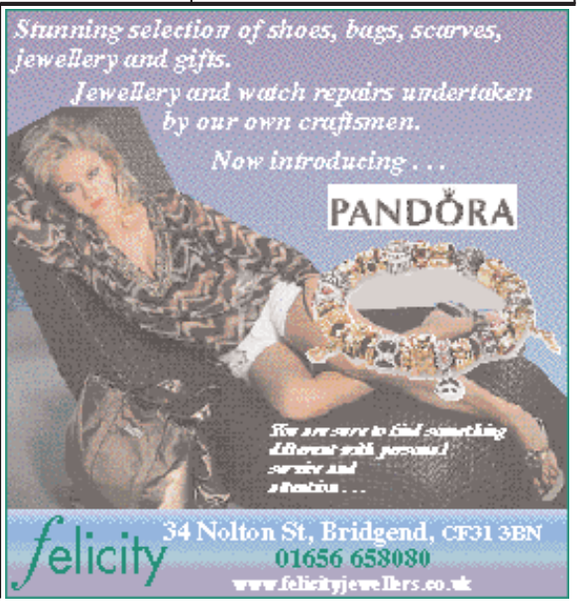
Anyone with information can contact DC Cridland at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 080 555 111.

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE IN PORTHCAWL

ARMED Forces Day will be celebrated in Porthcawl on Saturday (June 26) when the Royal British Legion Porthcawl and local Cadet groups with their standards, parade at the Bandstand at 11.15am.

There will be a short ceremony remembering the troops serving today and those who gave their lives in various theatres of war.

The exhortation will be given, along with two minutes' silence, reveille, and a blessing.



SUN SHINES ON CHURCH MARKET

St Joseph of Arimathaea Church, Kenfig Hill, held a Caledonian market on Saturday, June 12 – a glorious sunny day.

Photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

Church closure another sign of the times?

ABOVE:
Yet another place of worship has closed in Kenfig Hill – The Wesley Chapel in Pwll y Garth Street.
(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

'Beware of (food) bugs' – warning

RESIDENTS are being warned about the dangers of food poisoning, especially during the barbecue and picnic season.

With 120,000 extra cases of illness recorded across the UK when the weather is warmest, the county borough's public protection team have been touring local comprehensives to tell students about the importance of good food hygiene both indoors and out!

PhilIip Stanton, BCBC's service manager for environmental health, said: "Last year, our public protection department received 176 confirmed cases of food poisoning with an increase in the summer months. This year, we again expect to see the number of cases reported to us going up as the weather gets warmer and eating outside become more frequent.

"Our presentations to some local comprehensive schools have gone really well and we hope they'll pass on some of our food safety tips to their families, too.

"We've also held a food safety display in Bridgend Library, which will now move on to the council's Civic Offices at the beginning of July – so we hope visitors will take a look and find out the simple common-sense steps they can take to avoid getting ill.

"Storing, handling and cooking food properly will all minimise the risk, especially during the barbecue season."

The food safety display is at the Civic Offices in Angel Street from July 5-9.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. *We do NOT accept anonymous mail.* Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Whose idea to move OUR town library?

Contemporary newspaper reports to be found on the Internet dated August 30, 1907 state that the newly-opened Bridgend Library "a free library for Bridgend, was donated by Mr Andrew Carnegie".

So the library does not belong to Bridgend CBC, but to the townspeople of Bridgend!

We townspeople have not been consulted about moving this valuable facility to the Recreation Centre and those without road transport will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to get there.

I have lived in Bridgend for 50 years. I have enjoyed the library, as have my family for all that time.

Who had this big idea to move it?

I see from the original report from the council, that moving this and the library at Maesteg would save £70,000.

This money could have been saved and the libraries kept open if the 67 county councillors had not taken £1,300 each in expenses last year.

Also on the website was news that Maesteg library had already been moved from the town centre to the Recreation Centre on the Forge – again, without asking the people.

Please give this maximum publicity so that we can perhaps save the library.
G Roberts,
Bridgend

Rugby league to be theme of 'street festivals'

SAFER Bridgend and Wales Rugby League launch their second year of Street Rugby in the Bridgend area this week with the first of four festivals.

Just like last year's events that were organised by the Crusaders, there will be weekly training sessions involving rugby skills and other forms of fitness to keep the young people interested.

Each of the areas will then hold street rugby festivals where they will compete for the winners place in the league table.

All the Street Rugby League training and games will be held in open community spots such as local parks, making it more accessible for youngsters to get involved. All ages and abilities are invited to take part.

The first festival this Friday (tomorrow) is being held at Waterton at 5.30pm.

Mark Jones, the development manager for Wales Rugby League said: "Building from the success of Street Rugby League in 2009, Wales Rugby League, Safer Bridgend, Street Games and Communities First have been working hard behind the scenes to improve the league for all programme.

"This year, teams will compete in a series of tournaments culminating in a Finals day in September, I am looking forward to a very competitive series with more children benefiting from a positive experience which this programme facilitates."

Hannah Richards of Safer Bridgend said: "We are hoping that, by building on the success of last year's Street Rugby League initiative in Sarn, Caerau, Wildmill and Nantymoel, we can engage with even more young people who may not have had the chance to participate.

"The goal for us has been to reduce anti-social behaviour and to get children involved in physical activity. Friday's festival will be the first of four we have planned over the coming months and we are hoping that by participating in these festivals the young people will be encouraged to continue their involvement in sport and build on the new skills they have learnt."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
24 Thur	05.23	8.6	17.53	8.8
25 Fri	06.17	8.7	18.40	9.1
26 Sat	06.58	9.0	19.26	9.2
27 Sun	07.50	8.9	20.02	9.3
28 Mon	08.19	8.9	20.42	9.3
29 Tues	09.02	8.8	21.14	9.2
30 Wed	09.37	8.8	21.48	9.0
01 Thur	10.03	8.6	22.22	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm – information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm – advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm – information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**
(homelessness) **01656 643643.**
EDUCATION 01656 643643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
(general enquiries) **01656 642200**
SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **0790 460 4049**
Coychurch Higher Comm Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Comm Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council **01656 720086**
Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council **01656 738804**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
Newcastle Higher Comm Council **01446 750663.**
Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
Pencoed Town Council **01656 869031**
Porthcawl Town Council **01656 782215**
St Brides Minor Comm Council **01656 725031**
Ynysawdre Community Council **01656 736751**

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Porthcawl RNLI rescue the rescuers

ABOVE: The rescue drama unfolds.

PORTHCAWL RNLI were called to a yacht which was itself responding to a Mayday call last Sunday.

A yacht on passage from Swansea to Porthcawl responded to a Mayday call from another vessel which was experiencing difficulty in the Port Talbot area.

Porthcawl RNLI spokeswoman Aileen Jones, said: "As with any Mayday call, any vessel in the vicinity is required to offer assistance. The yacht altered course and headed towards the casualty, but the yacht itself suffered a problem with a fouled propeller and was unable to use its engine.

"Port Talbot lifeboat was launched to assist the first casualty vessel and Porthcawl lifeboat was launched to assist the yacht that was bound for Porthcawl. The sea conditions on Sunday were rough and a force 5 to 6 wind caught many mariners out.

"One of the crew on board the yacht had a medical condition that would need attention in the next hour or two.

"The lifeboat reached the yacht in a short time and helmsman Simon Emms made the decision to evacuate the crew member.

"Helicopter Rescue 169 from RAF Chivenor was in the vicinity and was requested to airlift the crewman to shore."

Porthcawl Lifeboat towed the yacht safely back to Porthcawl harbour a few hours later, where the fouled propeller was repaired. The helicopter landed at Salt Lake car park, where the airlifted casualty was delivered safely to local Coastguards, who were then able to get him to his required medication.

Phil Missen, lifeboat operations manager at Porthcawl, said: "Only a few weeks earlier, the RAF helicopter had exercised with our lifeboat in the Porthcawl area offering valuable training which was put to good use on this particular call out."

When is footie OK on the village green?

A SUGGESTION that a new sign banning ball games be placed on Nottage Green, has been kicked into touch by councillors.

Porthcawl town clerk Alison Leyshon reported that there had been some complaints about children playing ball games on the green.

She said the sign already there, which is worded in legal jargon, would not be understood by children. She suggested putting a new sign saying "No ball games" which would be easier for the PCSOs to enforce.

"Children would clearly see and understand that sign," she added.

Coun Chris Smart said that the council should be careful. He said: "I lived there for years myself and if little children are playing, there's no harm. It is the bigger ones who kick the balls into gardens, but we do not want to be too heavy handed.

"Sometimes, little toddlers are playing . We do not want to become a police state."

Coun Gerald Davies said that in the past, there had been full-scale football matches involving young men and they caused a lot of disturbance not only to residents but to others enjoying the recreation of the green.

"The police will use their discretion – they are not going to worry about a five-year-old but we needed the sign originally to give them the authority to step in."

Coun Norah Clarke said she queried the need for the new sign.

"We are becoming a sign-infested state. Everywhere you go there are signs. We are very negative."

She said that they should leave things as they were: "We should have no more signs."

It was agreed to allow the police to use their discretion if they see children playing ball.

Porthcawl Town Council news in brief

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to purchase an extra grit bin for the town at a cost of £250.

It is suggesting that it be located at the junction of Pyle Road and the A4229 into Nottage village. The bin will be supplied by the highways department at BCBC.

A MEETING is to be arranged between Porthcawl town councillors and Roger Price of the Miners Eisteddfod, to see if the council can become the main sponsor of the event.

BCBC has withdrawn its funding, throwing the future of the eisteddfod into doubt.

The meeting will be attended by the leaders of all three political parties on the council plus the chairs of the administration and tourism committees.

A new litter bin is to be provided by Porthcawl Town Council at The Well in Newton – because people are throwing litter into the well itself.

OVERHANGING trees at Mackworth Road, Porthcawl, are causing concern to residents.

The trees are in the old monster park and neighbours fear they may be unsafe through lack of maintenance. Some are leaning and others are top heavy.

Coun Alana Davies said that she would take this up with the highways department and report back to the town council.

Coun John Bunker said that the residents concerned were elderly.

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to ask the Land Registry to carry out a search of its records to identify all the property and pieces of land owned by the council.

Coun Jill Sweet said she attended a presentation by the Land Registry who would carry out the search at no charge. The council could then have a copy of the register for a fee of £8.

She said that the council had been in doubt a few times about what it owned, and this would clear up any doubts.

The council would then have a complete list of everything it owned.

News from Laleston WI

AT the meeting on June 3, vice-president, Helen Fry, took the chair and after the minutes and county letter were read, Marlene Davies gave a lengthy report on her attendance as the link delegate at the AGM in Cardiff.

There were 4,000-5,000 present and during the day there were quite a few speakers. The only resolution concerning the labelling of goods grown or reared in Britain and not imported from abroad in the first place was unanimously passed.

Mrs Davies said it had been a long day but one which she had enjoyed very much. Many other items were discussed in the meeting and members were informed of the following dates:

July 4 – Car boot sale, Rest, Porthcawl; July 17 – stall at Laleston Church Fete; July 24 – Summer Tea; August 28 – Glamorgan Show, Cornelly.

The guest speaker was Mr Mike Wilcock, who told of his life working for the C&A group and of the many stores with which he was involved.

The next meeting will be on July l and is the last one until September.

Council find cost of the summer playscheme is on the up and up...

by Jayne Isaac

PORTHCAWL Town Council is making a contribution of £1,800 towards the cost of providing a summer holiday playscheme in the town.

The council was faced with a series of options from Bridgend County borough Council (BCBC) which has radically re-organised the play schemes it is providing, restricting them to a smaller number of key locations – one such location is Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Town and community councils are being asked to increase the contribution they make. The cost of the strategic playschemes is given as £2,500 each.

Councils which no longer have a council-run playscheme in their area are being asked to meet the cost involved which ranges from £3,600 to £5,500.

Coun Chris Smart said that in previous years, the council had contributed £1,400-£1,500 for the scheme at Porthcawl.

"Suddenly, this figure has increased to £3,500 which I think is too much. It is out of the question to pay that money for the play scheme.

"We should look at the possibility or running our own scheme with a budget of £1,800. A lot of children do benefit from the play scheme and I do not want to scupper that."

He was supported by Coun Sean Aspey: "The council seems to be playing a 'think of a number' game with its estimates of costs, as we saw with the price they quoted for painting the bandstand.

"We want to provide something for the children. We know our budget and we should go for it."

Coun John Bunker disagreed and said that the council should provide £2,500 for the 'Play for Life' programme at Porthcawl.

"The number of children attending these schemes is enormous," he said. "I believe that we owe it to the young people to support them, but on a vote, it was agreed to offer £1,800 towards the scheme in Porthcawl, which may have to be modified because of the lower contribution offered.

A report from BCBC revealed that each of the strategic schemes was expected to cost between £8,200 and £8,900, with some funding available from outside bodies like the Sports Council, Cymorth, Change 4 Life and the Free Swimming Initiative.

The borough council will also put some money of its own into the schemes, together with the contributions from town and community councils.

Sixth formers organise eco-chic charity catwalk fashion show at comp

A 'RENEW' fashion show will be held on Friday, July 9, in the Jubilee Theatre, Porthcawl Comprehensive at 6pm-8.30pm.

Tickets £2 on the door, including welcome drink – fashion show starts at 7pm, and the aim is raise money for charity Sustainable Wales while highlighting ways to refresh our wardrobes – refashioning and swapping clothes to save the planet.

Organiser and fashionista, India Bundock, said: "We will be modelling clothes which we have restyled and brought up-to-date. It's a fun way to reduce our carbon footprint. People can also join in and help the fundraising by bringing along one or two garments that no longer suit or fit."

Textile course students will also be showing off their final pieces of course work.

The event, chaired by Sustainable Wales, includes a clothes swap shop, a SUSSED fairtrade, local and green goods stall, a raffle and a coffee bar offering home-made cakes and drinks.

The school is helping with the venue, catwalk, lighting and sound.

"As the lifespan of garments has shrunk, nearly 1.2m tonnes of clothing ends up in UK landfills every year and 100m pairs of shoes are chucked away annually.

"This event is eco – fabulous, recycling at its best, the idea is to draw attention to and reduce the impact of fast fashion," said Margaret Minhinnick, Director of Sustainable Wales.

"In a recession-hit world these sixth formers are suggesting the new cool is to SWAP NOT SHOP."

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MONDAY AUG 16 Leave 10am back 9.15pm
THURSDAY AUG 26 Leave 9am back 7pm
SATURDAY AUG 28 Leave 10.30am back 7.30pm
Cruise in comfort and style to the Devon Coast and enjoy the afternoon in Ilfracombe £27 On AUG 26 Take the kids to Watermouth Castle for a great family day out! £33 - all inclusive fare no extras to pay!

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Or Buy Your Tickets On Board When You Sail

MINEHEAD & EXMOOR TOUR
JULY 4 - See THOMAS the TANK ENGINE
SUNDAY JULY 4 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
MONDAY AUG 16 Leave 10am back 9.15pm
Sail aboard Balmoral and spend the day in Minehead. Enjoy a coach tour of Exmoor and join the ship in Ilfracombe for your sail home £21.95 SC £19.95 Aug 16 Take the kids to Butlins for only £35

EXPLORE SOMERSET BY STEAM RAILWAY
MONDAY AUG 16 Leave 10am back 9.15pm
Cruise to Minehead and join the West Somerset Railway to enjoy a 40 mile journey exploring the countryside and stations aboard a steam train. £35

HERITAGE COAST & BARRY ISLAND
THURSDAY AUG 26 Leave 7pm back 9.45pm
Step Aboard Balmoral for a sail along the dramatic Glamorgan Heritage Coastline and around Barry Island £15.95 Return by inclusive coach from Penarth

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STOLEN SCRAMBLER BIKE IS RECOVERED

POLICE have released this picture of a scrambler bike recovered recently in South Cornelly, that was stolen from the Rhondda Cynon Taff area.

Subsequent searches have led to the recovery of stolen mountain-bikes from the Neath/Port Talbot area and other stolen goods from the Porthcawl area.

"Enquiries are continuing and three local males have been released on bail," PCSO Jon Howe stated.

"We have received many complaints recently regarding this bike and other similar bikes in relation to anti-social and dangerous driving in the Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly areas.

"If anyone has information in relation to this issue or any other issue, please contact me on 07805 301 491."

£2,000 to paint the bandstand!

...but the electicity supply has to be switched off!

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has revealed that the electricity supply to the bandstand in John Street, Porthcawl, is to be disconnected.

The bandstand is the focal point for outdoor events in the town and electricity is needed for public address systems and lights. There have been problems with the electrics at this location for some time.

The town council has also been asked to contribute towards the cost of repainting it. BCBC put the cost at £2,000.

Coun Rosemary Deere said that if the council agreed to do that, it should be made clear that the town council was not accepting any responsibility for the bandstand.

"They are trying to pass the buck to us completely," she warned. "There were problems there when we had the switch-on of the Christmas lights, and at other events."

Coun David Deere said that the council should offer to get the handyman to do the work, with the borough council supplying the paint.

Coun Norah Clarke said she thought the price quoted was extortionate, and she supported the offer of getting the handyman to do the work.

However, Coun Gerald Davies pointed out that that the area would have to fenced off from the public while the work was underway.

"It's not a question of the handyman turning up with a ladder and a paint brush," he said. "We should look at how this work needs to be done."

Coun David Newton Williams said that the Royal British Legion had received a message from BCBC saying that the electrics would not be available for Armed Forces Day. He said that there had been problems with the supply there since before Christmas.

He added: "We must tell them that we need a supply there for events to take place."

The clerk, Alison Leyshon, said she had been informed by the council that they had received only one request for a power supply for an event at the bandstand during the past year and because of that, the council has decided to turn the power off permanently.

She said that she was told that if the town council takes over the bandstand, the council would switch the power back on.

It was agreed to offer to paint the bandstand but nothing else.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Photocopier clamp down in council office

THE photocopier at Porthcawl town council offices is to be made available for public use, but only for the copying of planning applications, the council has decided.

There had been concern that the prices being charged were lower than commercial businesses, and were leading to a greater use of the machine and wasting office time in dealing with it.

Coun Alana Davies said she was surprised that the council was allowing the machine to be used by the public, because she was concerned about the over-use of the machine, and also the fact that the council was affecting businesses also providing this service.

"I am not happy about this and we should say a definite no to public use. It is not appropriate."

Coun Norah Clarke said that the public do not have access to the machine – staff members do the photocopying for them.

She went on: "I am also aware that members of the council are using it other than for council business. They should not use it for their own business. They are getting photocopies done cheaper than anywhere else."

Coun Chris Smart said that this had been going on for about four years and it was originally done to enable members of the public to have copies of planning applications and plans.

"People were coming in and asking for copies and we were doing it for nothing," he said. " It was then decided to make a charge. I am sure that 99 per cent of what it does is copying plans."

Coun Alana Davies said she was aware that people could get plans copied, but she did not recall the council agreeing to let it go further than that.

"It should stop because there's an issue here of staff time. We should limit it to the copying of plans for the public."

Coun David Deere said that the clerk should also look at the council's charges to see if they were in line with other charges being asked in the town.

"If we charge the right price, our copier will then only be used for plans by members of the public. If people want other things copied, the answer is that they cannot have them. It is only for the copying of plans."

How a Jewish family came to settle in Wales

MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI

AT the monthly meeting on June 8, Mrs Norma Glass returned to give a talk about the preparation for the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at dusk on Friday and ends at dusk on Saturday.

Families arrive in time for the ceremony of the lighting of special candles, and the blessing of food and wine. The family sit down to food cooked in a traditional manner, accompanied by bread and wine made by Jewish suppliers.

Mrs Glass related how her grandmother, aged 16, arrived on a boat at Swansea docks.

Her family in Lithuana believed that she was going to New York, but the ship's captain, who had been paid by the immigrants aboard, took advantage of their ignorance and landed them in south Wales.

At that early age, she had been forced to support herself by doing menial tasks, but she eventually married and raised a family in Swansea, where her granddaughter, Mrs Glass, still lives.

Mrs Eirwen De Vries gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Glass for a fascinating insight into her religion, which was enjoyed by all.

Arrangements for this summer's outing to Newent in the Forest of Dean are in hand and a coach is being booked for August 17 and the next meeting will be held at 2.30pm on July 13 at Pisgah Chapel vestry, when the speaker will be Mrs Pritchard on Japanese customs, craft, costume and food...

It's a chance to wear a kimono!

MARJORIE GOODE

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

School news

LLANGAN Primary School PTA arranged two stalls for the children to buy gifts for Father's Day – a bring and buy cake stall takes place at the school once a month.

Children in years 5-6 paid a visit to St Donat's Iola Theatre to see the play *Am I Dreaming?*

Following this performance, Theatre Iola will perform *Finding Leaves for Soup* for the nursery and reception class.

Pupils are looking forward to taking part in a swimming gala, which will take place on June 25. On June 30, the school will be holding their sports day.

This year's school fair will take place on Saturday, July 3 at 11am-2pm.

If anyone wishes to donate gifts for the tombola or cake stall, it will be much appreciated.

All money raised will go to benefit the children.

Ruthin Chapel

NO progress seems to have been made on the Ruthin chapel since the windows and door were boarded up.

A new problem has arisen with the roof beginning to deteriorate, as there appears to be slates missing.

Volunteers speak about work of Emmaus charity

ABOVE: Emmaus volunteers in Bridgend town centre.

RECENTLY, a number of community groups in Bridgend were represented at stalls in Wyndham Street.

These included the Emmaus Bridgend group, who hope to open an Emmaus community and store in the Bridgend area.

They were spreading the word about Emmaus, a charity which offers an alternative to homelessness by providing a home, work and companionship.

Most communities support themselves by refurbishing and repairing donated furniture and other goods, which are then sold in the community's shop.

Activities for children, such as face painting, were popular and people stopped to find out more. Companions from other communities were there to talk about their experience of being in Emmaus communities. Madeleine Moon MP visited the stall and was interested in the project.

Emmaus is a nationwide charity that offers homeless people a home, work and a chance to regain self respect in a supportive community environment.

The charity is planning to set up the first community in Wales based in the Bridgend area and are currently looking for people interested in forming a steering committee.

For more information contact Ruth O'Neill 02920 316150 or e-mail kate@lowrys.demon.co.uk

Social Care Week celebrated

SOCIAL workers, home care workers, residential care workers, community occupational therapists are among those being celebrated as part of Social Care Week.

Each day in the county borough, around 3,000 adults and more than 1,000 children and families are supported by the council's social care services teams, in partnership with private, independent and voluntary sector partners.

"Social Care Week, which is unique to Wales, was set up so that the role of those people delivering that essential support can be recognised," explained Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing.

"At any one time in this area alone, some 3.5 per cent of the local population will be receiving social care from the council. That can range from safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, to providing practical help with daily living tasks to support people to be independent.

"Unless you're the person receiving that care, this work can go unnoticed, but any one of us could need this professional, safe and skilled workforce at some time so Social Care Week is about giving them that recognition," Coun Morgan added.

Social care services in Wales are delivered through the 22 local authorities, including Bridgend and approximately 1,800 private and independent organisations, with support from voluntary organisations. Approximately 70,000 people in Wales are employed in the social care sector.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

British Heart Foundation – **Unit 18, Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend** – two illuminated fascia signs and one illuminated projecting sign.

Cwmfelin County Primary School – **Cwmfelin Primary School, Maesteg road, Maesteg** – erect flag pole for school's eco flag.

Mrs M Tyre – **7A West Road, Nottage, Porthcawl** – outline application to replace existing two-bed bungalow with new two-bed bungalow.

Mr R Derrick – **land off High Street, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend** – certificate of lawfulness for use of land for storing materials since 1994.

Mr G Evans – **Hirolwg, Mountain Lane Road, Llangeinor, Bridgend** – installation of 2.0m high gabion baskets, wind turbine and patio area.

Mr A Clemett – **land east 11/12 Ty Isaf Road, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend** – retrospective application to retain single storey building hay store.

Specsavers Optical Superstores – **Specsavers, 3 Talbot Street, Maesteg** – replace door and windows, reinstate and improve the frontage to Victorian-style in accord with BCBC guidelines.

Ms Janet Moloney – **6 Austin Avenue, Laleston, Bridgend** – second storey extension to rear of property.

Mr D Baynham – **36 Maes y Wern, Pencoed** – dormer extension and single storey glazed extension.

Heol y Cyw RFC – **Heol y Cyw RFC, 37 High Street, Heol y Cyw** – alteration and re-roofing existing outbuilding.

Hafod Care Association – **6 Iestyn Court, Brocastle, Bridgend** – lawful development certificate for use of property in use class D1 (meeting rooms for residents).

Mr I Rhys-Jones – **19 Priory Avenue, Bridgend** – single storey extension.

Ms C Corbett – **118 High Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend** – single storey extension to rear for kitchen with mono pitch roof and associated external works.

Mr C Dawkins – **Butterfly House B & B, 51 Mary Street, Porthcawl** – change of use of three bedrooms on first floor to bed and breakfast.

Mr M Bailey – **The Haven, The Court, Coychurch** – single storey extension to front of existing bungalow.

Mr G Tutt – **2 School Terrace, Blaengarw, Bridgend** – loft conversion and rear first floor extension.

Mr D Tickner – **1 Locks Court, Porthcawl** – ground floor rear extension for dining room and bedroom.

Mr I Morgan – **8 Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend** – two storey side extension and ground floor lean-to at rear.

Mr A Griffiths – **72 Beach Road, Porthcawl** – relax condition 1 of consent P/08/594/RLX to allow additional external seating.

Baybrook Limited – **existing private car park, Llynfi Lane, Bridgend** – change of use of existing car park to car sales area.

Valleys to Coast – **land rear of 13-24 Bron Y Wawr, North Cornelly** – change of use of unused land (former garage site) to an informal community play area.

Mr S Davies – **34 Brynllywarch, Maesteg** – two storey side extension.

Mr J Wall – **23 Springfield Avenue, Porthcawl** – amendment to existing planning permission P/08/429/FUL.

Motor House Wales – **Motor House Wales, Dunraven Estate, Coychurch Road, Bridgend** – provide external escape stair and removal of windows to side elevation.

Mrs PR Chapman – **6 Springfield Avenue, Porthcawl** – rear extension and internal alterations to provide attic bedroom and bathroom.

Town unites to wish her well at start of year of office...

Porthcawl Mayor enjoys her Civic Sunday

PORTHCAWL mayor Mary Emment Lewis held her Civic Sunday at Newton Church recently.

Coun Emment Lewis and her husband Bobby, who is her consort, welcomed guests from many organisations in the town, as well as town councillors and the deputy mayor of Bridgend, Coun Chris Michaelides.

However, it was also a family occasion, with the children and grandchildren enjoying the day.

The service was conducted by the Rector, Canon Philip Masson assisted by Father Jonathan.

After the service, the guests enjoyed a tea at the Atlantic Hotel where Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon thanked Coun Emment Lewis and wished her a successful year as mayor.

She referred to Coun Emment Lewis' battle against breast cancer and commended her for her courage and fortitude.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE:
The Mayor, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis and her husband Bobby.

BELOW:
After the service, John Richardson was awarded a town plaque for his services to the community.
Mr Richardson has, for a number of years, taken charge of electrical work needed for town council events.

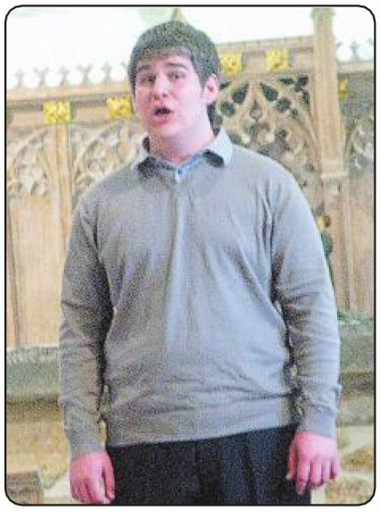
ABOVE: Town clerk Alison Leyshon and assistant Sarah Watkins.

RIGHT:
The Mayor with god-daughter Helen, Natasha and Eileen Stanford.

LEFT:
The mayor thanks guests after the service.

LEFT:
A family group after the service.

LEFT:
Madeleine Moon MP, Canon Phillip Masson, the mayor and consort, and Father Jonathan.



RIGHT:
Stefan Ulberini sang 'The Lord is my Shepherd' at St John's Church.

Council finds new loo will cost too much!

THE cost of installing a self-cleaning toilet in Porthcawl has been described by Porthcawl council leader David Deere as prohibitive.

Instead, the council is to seek other options to increase the number of public toilets available in the resort.

The capital projects committee has asked the clerk to make further enquiries from different companies supplying such toilets and submit a further report.

Coun Deere told the full council that the costs quoted were not affordable, especially as the council would have had to sign up for a long term agreement. The toilets worked out at £15,000 a year, plus water charges.

He said that the council was now looking at the possibility of siting a toilet in the Beach Road area at Newton – towards the Trecco Bay end.

"We should keep all the options open but we are not turning our back on trying to provide some toilets," he said. "But so far, they have not been affordable."

Coun Gerald Davies welcomed the statement and said that there was a café at Beach Road which had toilets. He referred to the scheme already in place in the borough to pay cafés, pubs and restaurants to open up their toilet facilities to the public.

"Services like this are often better provided through a joint approach with businesses," he said.

"To provide one self-cleaning toilet somewhere is not going to make us any more popular with visitors. We must provide this service in a more cost-effective way."

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Who ya gonna call? Swarmbusters!

SWARMS! They seem to be the order of the day so far.

From the latter part of May until the present date, Barbara and myself have received many calls relating to swarms. Some we have collected and passed on to others, especially those new to beekeeping who are very keen to get a hives/hives established.

Two I have retained for myself to increase the number of hives at Fonmon Apiary, as I intend to get back to around 10-15 hives.

We did, of course, arrive too late at some sites and the bees had moved on. A recent swarm which was on the ground and looked for all the world like a cow-pat and, to my mind should have given us some problems to collect, did, in fact, prove to be easy.

Barbara covered them with an upturned skep (straw basket) placing a stone under one edge, gave them a light spray with water and bingo! they obligingly went up into the skep, all within 10 minutes.

The skep was turned the right way up and a net (curtain material) was secured across the top and it was delivered to a very pleased beginner.

Swarms are, of course, a perfectly natural part of the honey-bee's life cycle and, much as we beekeepers try to prevent it happening, we are not always successful, as is evident by the recent dashing hither and thither by Barbara and myself.

Beekeepers can and do carry out various manipulations in an effort to deceive the bees into thinking they have swarmed and, in so doing, we do not lose bees or the hoped for honey crop.

Barbara and myself are managing five different sites of bees plus helping a number of beginners with their hives, leading inevitably to some hives not being looked at in the proper time frame, consequence! Swarming takes place.

However, all is not lost. The hive which has swarmed does still have: bees, sealed brood (bees which are waiting to hatch out) and of course queen-cells, one of which is going to emerge, taking the place of the old queen which departed with the swarm.

Once a queen has emerged, any other queen-cells in the hive will be destroyed by the bees or the new queen, only one queen per hive is the norm.

It will be some weeks before the new queen gets her act together and starts laying eggs and returning the hive to normality. The beekeeper, of course, loses out on the honey crop as the departing swarm loaded themselves up with honey to provide them with energy for the next few days while they organise their new home, wherever that may be.

The queen-raising course that Barbara and I attended a short while ago will see us putting into practice what we have learned. Should a hive somehow not have a queen (she may have died or the beekeeper may have inadvertently damaged or killed her when carrying out hive inspections) the bees will proceed to put things in order by making queen-cells. The beekeeper can take advantage of this situation and induce the bees to make many more cells, which can then be used to make up new hives.

Should our efforts produce the desired results, a future article describing the method in more detail will be undertaken.

Some honey has been taken off the Fonmon bees (rape) but due to the easterly breezes which were ever present throughout May, a definite check on the bees' activity was very evident but, the months to come may well redress the balance, and I (and the bees) will benefit from hoped for summer weather.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

GEM Quiz League

HERE are your four weekly testers:

1 What in Spanish cuisine is the name of a cold soup made from peppers, tomatoes, garlic, cucumber, onion and breadcrumbs?

2 Starsky & Hutch drove what type of car in the television series?

3 Who is the only goalkeeper to play more than 500 times for Manchester United?

4 Who was the leader of the USSR when Yuri Gargarin was the first man to go into space?

A RUDGE
(Hon sec BGQL)

Answers
1 Gazpacho.
2 Ford Torino.
3 Alex Stepney.
4 Nikita Kruschev.

Ogmore AM learns facts about epilepsy

Janice Gregory AM (left) talks to Tracy Cowdry (right) at the Assembly event.

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory attended the All Wales Epilepsy Forum's awareness event at the Assembly on June 16.

It highlighted the Welsh Assembly Government's epilepsy service directive on the use of substituted generic medications to treat epilepsy, the managed clinical network for epilepsy, and the Assembly-sponsored booklet on sudden unexpected death in epilepsy.

The AM talked to representatives of the various epilepsy organisations represented at the event and said afterwards: "I knew something about the condition but it was good to hear more from people who are deeply involved in the issues.

"I was particularly struck by my conversation with Tracy Cowdry from Bryncethin, who is a family support worker with Epilepsy Bereaved Wales.

"I had not realised that about 40 people a year in Wales die directly or indirectly as a result of epilepsy.

"Tracy and her colleagues are working to support families affected by SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) and other epilepsy deaths, reduce the risks by providing information and education and promote research. This is important work and I was glad of the chance to learn more about it," Ms Gregory added.

Car seats tested free of charge

AS part of Child Safety Week, parents can have their child's seat checked and tested at Tesco, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend between 9am-4pm on June 24-25.

"The aim of the event is to raise public awareness about the lack of protection provided by an unsuitable or badly fitted car seat, and how with just a little extra knowledge, parents and carers can ensure the future safety of their children while they travel," said a BCBC spokeswoman.

"The council's experts will carry out the checks, which are completely free of charge, and take just 10 minutes to complete. The law says that all children under 135cm (about 4ft 5in) in height who are under 12 years old, must use an appropriate baby seat, child car seat or booster seat – even on short journeys."

Last year, Bridgend County Borough Council recorded an 80 per cent failure rate for those seats that were checked by expert testers.

Of the 101 seats that were tested, nearly a quarter were found to have major faults such as the seats being incorrectly fitted, while nearly half had some form of minor fault.

Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun David Sage, said: "Child Safety Week aims to help people understand the real risks to children and the simple changes which can reduce those risks - so that children and young people can enjoy safer, healthier, more active lives.

"Bridgend County Borough Council is actively supporting this by putting on our free seat testing event. As an authority we want to raise public awareness about the lack of protection provided by an unsuitable or badly fitted car seat. With just a little extra knowledge parents can ensure their children are safe during car journeys and hopefully these checks will help prevent injuries resulting from accidents in the future."

70s music

DANCERS can step back in time at an adult 70s retro disco in the council-run Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel on Friday, July 2 at 7pm.

Organised by Bridgend County borough Council's arts and community development, all tickets are £3 (adults only).

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Enid-Sian Hughes (musical director) receiving a cheque for £300, from Mr Ian Thirlwell (Tesco manager) which the choir raised for the Red Cross by singing at the store, while Beatrice (secretary) far right, Ryan Wood (accompanist) at the left rear and the choir members look on.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Children's choir

MAESTEG Children's Choir has been invited to sing at St David's Hall, Cardiff on November 20 to help raise money for the Noah's Ark appeal.

The concert will be presented by Sara Edwards, the BBC presenter, and the soloist will be the mezzo soprano Beverly Humphreys.

The appeal is trying to raise money for the critical care unit in phase two of the Children's Hospital for Wales. The up to date equipment needed will cost over £1.2 million.

The choir is busily rehearsing for its 24th annual concert titled "From Broadway to Boogie" on Friday, July 2 at Maesteg town hall at 7pm.

Tickets are available from choir members, Sian on 01656 732385 and the town hall. Compèred by Anthony Mullins, it will be an emotive evening as four of the choir members will be leaving, having reached the age of 18. They are Charlotte Hanbury, Rhian Hughes, Catherine Jenkins, and Rebecca Lewis.

The choir's secretary, Beatrice Alsop-Jones, together with the musical director Enid-Sian Hughes, has been with the choir since it started 25 years ago. Unfortunately, Beatrice has been in hospital for 10 weeks, and we wish her well as she gradually recovers.

WI birthday

ABERKENFIG and District WI's president, Eunice Williams, opened the 29th birthday meeting when 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Pauline, Pearl, Mair and Hilary the June Birthday girls.

There will be a fish and chip lunch on August 11 at the Welfare Hall at 12.30pm. The next Link meeting will be on October 14 at Mynydd Cynfig.

Eunice gave a short report on the spring council meeting in St David's Hall, Cardiff, attended by 760 members from 100 Women's Institutes (there are 107 WIs in Glamorgan).

The morning speaker was Mr Peter Brown Simpkins, consultant gynaecologist in Swansea, He put over his subject very well with a humorous slant; Jamie Owen promoted his book 'Around Wales'; and Ruth Jones gave an illuminating account of how she found fame.

Pam Dinham gave the chairman's address: three new WIs have been formed in Glamorgan since October 2009, and the AGM will be in Cardiff this year.

The raffle was won by Nancy and Joanne and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'U' was won by Irene with a picture of a Unicorn. The busy tea hostesses were Pearl, Betty and Hilary.

New members and visitors are always welcome to the meetings at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

The next meeting will be on July 14 and the speaker will be Joyce Jones. Her topic will be 'writing your memoirs'. The competition will be for any item beginning with the letter 'I' and there will be a sales table.

Memorial concert

NOTEWORTHY mixed choir is presenting a concert in aid of Cancer Research UK Cymru at St Michael's church, Maesteg, on July 10 at 7pm.

Special guests are the Vivace singers and Angharad Lisabeth Rees, the soprano who was the winner at the 2008 Eisteddfod. Tickets are £6 and can be obtained from any Noteworthy choir member, or Ryan on 07966 366953.

Pupils' awards

THE following pupils at Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor, received books at a special assembly, donated by friends of the school for their achievements in improving reading skills over the term.

They were class 1 – Jamie McCann – 'Read me a Story' by Nicola Baxter: class 2 – Bailey John – 'Children's Knowledge Encyclopedia': class 3 – Morgan Chard – 'The Usborne Internet Linked Children's Encyclopedia'.

The school received commission of £137.06 for the sale of books during book fair week at the school, and the reading of bedtime stories at the Richard Price Centre raised £63.07.

The summer fete and duck race is to be held on Saturday, July 3. The school would appreciate donations of items for raffle prizes, or for display on the various stalls to be given to Elaine the school secretary as soon as possible. Offers of assistance at the fete itself would also be appreciated by the organisers.

Band's open day

OGMORE Valley Silver Band is holding an open day at its band room, Bethania Row, Ogmore Vale, CF32 7AD on Sunday, June 27 between 2pm-4pm.

There will be a chance for the public to try out a brass or percussion instrument.

This is the only band in Bridgend CBC area that competes in the national competitions. More information can be obtained from Alice on 07929 358001.

School plea

OGMORE Vale primary school's headteacher has thanked Mr Patel of the local Nisa store for supplying bottles of water to the pupils who competed in the recent sports day events.

He advises relatives that because of the hot weather, to please ensure children are supplied with protective hats to wear during play periods.

If any relative has a child they wish to go on the Manor adventure trip in September, the balance of payment should be given to the school receptionist by tomorrow Friday, June 25.

School fair

TONDU primary school is reminding relatives of pupils that the PTA's summer fair will be taking place at the school tomorrow (Friday, June 25) at 3.30pm.

Hopefully, everyone will support this event which is being held to improve playground facilities at the school.

Mrs Lewis, the music teacher, has been hard at work encouraging the pupils with their musical skills. On June 29, the junior classes will be putting on a concert called 'Tondu's Got Talent' at 6pm. Admission is £3 and the money will help purchase a new digital piano for the school.

Charity walk for cancer research is a great success!

ABOVE:
Porthcawl Mayor Coun Mary Emment-Lewis and her consort Bobby with Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon and her husband Steve.

PHOTOS by KEITH E MORGAN

IN conjunction with Porthcawl Lions Club, a Cancer Research-sponsored coastal walk was held on Sunday, June 13.

The walk began and ended at the Hi-Tide Inn and extended to the shelter at the beginning of Lock's Common.

It was started by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, who walked the full distance. Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon and her husband Steve also took part.

The walk was well supported and raised more than £2,000 for cancer research.

Cancer Research also had a jewellery stall in the Hi-Tide. The stall (left) was started by Diane Jones of Cancer Research, when her sister died in 2002.

The latter had left jewellery to Diane, "too much really", she said, and it was given to Cancer Research.

Other supporters have subsequently donated jewellery and to date, the stall has raised more than £7,000.

BCBC flies the flag for Armed Forces Day

A SPECIAL flag in honour of servicemen and women, has been raised ahead of Armed Forces Day by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

It was hoisted in a formal ceremony outside the Civic Offices in Angel Street, Bridgend, and remains there until Armed Forces Day this Saturday, June 26.

Representatives of the Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association and the Royal British Legion, joined new Mayor Colin Teesdale, members of BCBC's cabinet, chief executive Jo Farrar, local MPs Huw Irranca Davies and Madeleine Moon, and the Ogmore AM, Janice Gregory.

The flag raising was carried out by Sergeant Mike Jackson of the Royal Welsh, which holds the Freedom of the county borough.

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, said: "We are delighted to be flying the special Armed Forces Day flag once again.

"This council is proud to show its ongoing support for our serving troops and their families, our veterans and our cadets.

This special flag will fly each day up to and including Armed Forces Day on Saturday as a visible symbol of our – and indeed the whole community's – appreciation."

The Mayor, Coun Teesdale, added: "I am especially pleased that a representative of the Royal Welsh is with us to perform today's flag-raising.

"As holders of the Freedom of the Borough, this regiment is close to our heart."

A celebratory service, organised by local veterans, will also be held in the quadrangle at the bottom of Park Street, Bridgend, at 11.30am on Sunday, June 27, followed by a social event in the United Services Club.

Sir Willard White helps choir celebrate its 50th anniversary

FOLLOWING successful performances at Cardiff and Clifton cathedrals, and a highly-acclaimed visit to the awe-inspiring Liverpool Cathedral, the Bridgend Male Choir returns to the concert platform at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Saturday, July 3.

Joining the 90-strong choir for their 50th anniversary concert will be the eminent bass/baritone, Sir Willard White.

Born in Jamaica, Sir Willard has graced opera houses all over the world, singing at La Scala, Milan; Covent Garden and the Met, and has sung with many of the greatest orchestras.

Knighted in 2004, Sir Willard has a full worldwide concert schedule. He starred in the film, *Porgy and Bess*. Bridgend Male Choir is proud to appear with him: "The choir is thrilled to be singing with Sir Willard, who is no stranger to the Grand Pavilion," commented media officer, David Burt.

"It was he who celebrated the memory of Paul Robeson there in 2007. Recalling the social justice advocate's emotional transatlantic broadcast to the Miners' Eisteddfod at Porthcawl 50 years earlier, Sir Willard will include the spiritual 'Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel'."

"Sir Willard's programme includes several tributes to Paul Robeson and we are delighted that Sir Willard will premiere my arrangement of 'Deep River'. This spiritual was sung in the 1940 film, *The Proud Valley*, starring Robeson and the legendary Rachel Thomas.

"This edition was made to celebrate our golden jubilee and we are highly honoured that such a superb artist has agreed to sing it with us.

"The choir will feature spirituals, music by Mozart and Wagner, a 'Sounds Welsh' special and the ever-popular 'Comrades in Arms'."

Supported by the choir's highly talented accompanist, Laura Smith, Sir Willard will perform Copland's 'Old American Songs' and music by Vaughan Williams and Berlioz.

His showtime finale focuses on 'If I Were a Rich Man', 'Some Enchanted Evening' and 'I Got Plenty Of Nothin'.

Also in showstopper mood, the choir will feature 'Rhythm of Life' and from their CD '50 Glorious Years', 'Classic Male', 'Cavatina' and 'Memory'.

Chairman, Mansel Abraham said: "For the grand finale, we will sing 'Ol' Man River' with Sir Willard – a fitting finale for the our golden anniversary gala since the choir "just keeps rolling along".

Bridgend Male Choir 50th Anniversary Concert will be held at 7.30pm on July 3 at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. Tickets available from the Pavilion Box Office (01656 815995).

JOHN JENKINS
(Musical director)

WI ladies hear all about search and rescue group

BEFORE the May meeting of St Hilary WI in St Hilary Village Hall, the fitter members completed their annual 'Miles for Macmillan' walk around the village.

When the usual business was completed, the resolution was discussed and passed. This was followed by a quiche supper and a social evening.

At the June meeting, members were entertained by Gareth Williams (and his dog, Meg) with an interesting and detailed account of the work of the Western Beacons Mountain Search and Rescue Team.

Gareth said the Mountain Rescue scheme is run entirely by volunteers from all walks of life. They have to commit themselves to continuous, rigorous and thorough training and are on call for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Western Beacons team is based at Sarn, in Bridgend, covering the largest area in the UK and can be mobile in ten minutes.

They are called out at least 58 times a year, which involves at least one call-out a week.

Gareth's talk was accompanied by a DVD and a presentation showing training activities and actual rescues. The very informative evening was concluded with refreshments provided by Sian Deal and Sue Knight.

The next meeting will be held on July 13, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

THE GLAMORGAN GEM WORLD CUP ROUND-UP

VUVUZELAS – are they the sound of South Africa or a nightmare?

NOW, I love football, and I have been lucky enough to travel to a couple of previous World Cups and European Championships.

It's not just the football I go to see, it's also about visiting those host countries, enjoying the different cultures, food and in some cases spectacular scenery .

So when South Africa was given the 2010 World Cup I thought, sounds good, shall I save up and go? In the end I decided against it, and I'm glad I did.

Why, well the thought of having my eardrums assaulted for the best part of two hours by an instrument, if that's what it is, blown continuously at what appears to be one long unrelenting note would have driven me crazy!

My telly sounds like its got a bees' nest in it every time I watch a match. I dread to think what it's like live.

I am really happy to learn that many stadiums and other sporting venues in our country plan to ban them. My verdict on the Vuvuzela – NIGHTMARE!

Another thing I really have got angry about is the Jabulani ball, that's just become a joke. As we head into the third round of group-based matches, I have yet to see one decent free kick from just outside the penalty area go flying anywhere other than a mile over the crossbar.

The ball doesn't dip, moves around from side to side and bounces like one of those super rubber balls we had as kids in the playground.

Designed and tested in Britain apparently, they showed it being tested, fired out of a machine at an empty goal, I wonder if anyone thought to let Ronaldo or Rooney have a few shots with it as a tester. To make matters worse, they then gave it to the Germans for six months before the World Cup to practice with. Nightmare!

Alright, whinge over, what about the actual matches and teams.

Where to begin? France, now there's a team. Anelka, he gets sent home for apparently casting doubts over the parentage of his manager and the rest of them go on strike for the day.

Well the French love a good strike now and again, so nothing new there then. Now they are going home early, I wonder if the French air traffic controllers might strike just to prevent them arriving.

England, well who do you believe, John Terry, ex-captain, who says, things are not right and Joe Cole should be in the team, and we are having a meeting to thrash it out with the manager; and, oh, by the way, I don't care if what I say upsets him

Or, Capello, the wise old Italian manager who says, what problem? Nothing bad been said to me by the rest of the team... Oh yeah, and where's the captain

by TONY BENNETT

Steven Gerrard while all this is going on? I thought the captain was suppose to be the spokesperson for the team. All sounds very harmonious to me.

By the time you get to read this, England may well be on the plane home and I won't feel sorry for them. I'll feel sorry for the fans, most have spent thousands of pounds to support their team with pride and passion, and all they've got so far is Rooney spouting off about them booing. I'm with the fans on that one.

As we head into the final group games, you would have to say, on current form we are heading for a Brazil - Argentina final. Both look strong, and both are playing some lovely football.

At the time of writing, of the big European teams, France, England and Italy are all teetering on the brink of elimination. Spain are also not assured of a last 16 place despite beating Honduras in their second game.

The Swiss caused the biggest shock so far when they beat the Spanish 1-0 in their opening game.

Portugal, despite a 7-0 hammering of North Korea, still don't look that convincing and the Germans have also got some problems after losing to Serbia 1-0, and they missed a penalty, what is the world coming to!

The African nations look in poor shape, with only Nigeria having missed out on the last 16. Ghana will probably have to beat Germany to progress.

Come Friday, we have the Brazil - Portugal clash in the afternoon, and this should decide who wins group G. I'll take Brazil on that one.

Friday night Spain play Chile and that should decide who wins group H, although the Swiss may yet have a big say in how all that turns out when they play Honduras at the same time.

After Friday, well everything gets thrown up into the air. At the time of writing this there are so many ifs, buts and maybes about who wins which group and who comes second. Your wall chart will need to be consulted.

Saturday night could still produce a mighty England - Germany clash, but that assumes England have beaten Slovenia and won group C. The USA might have had something to say about that. That England Germany match could also happen on Sunday, should England finish second and Germany win their group.

History, as I suspected, is repeating itself. Some of the big boys have started slowly and one or two will fall at the first hurdle. One or two of the minnows have stepped up and caused some upsets; New Zealand, for example, getting a draw with the defending champions Italy. Algeria taking on the supposed might of England and leaving the field with a draw, and the better team.

...The mid-ranking South American teams like Paraguay and Chile playing some exciting football, Mexico running the French ragged, and Uruguay are no mugs either, all good stuff.

Best for me so far, the Dutch, who played football like it should be played. Their one or two-touch pass and move-football is a joy to behold. Unlike England, they seem to have no problem with passing the ball to someone they know.

My moment of the tournament so far? How about – Jovanovic the Serbian striker, scores the goal that beats the Germans, wonderful moment that. He then heads off to celebrate with the fans. Leaps over the advertising boards and then leaps over a small barrier expecting to reach his adoring public.

What he fails to see is the moat, which is designed to stop fans reaching the pitch. He promptly disappears from view! Funny? well it made me laugh.

If you missed it, type his name in on You Tube, it's there.

Football legend visits Barry pub

EARLIER this month, the Gordon Bennett pub presented the Jamie Adamson (JAM) fund with a cheque for more than £500.

It was also the annual presentation night, and presenting the trophies was the legendary Ron 'Chopper' Harris.

King of the Punters (Six Nations)

This year's winner, Malcolm Young, dramatically took the title on the last game of the tournament.

Tracy Cole was the lucky winner pulled out of the Easter draw and she had a rugby shirt of her choice.

Also in Easter, there was the 'Clash of the Titans' charity skittles match where the pub's two men's skittle teams do battle for the coveted Gordon Bennett Cup. It was between GBH and The Merry Men, and the event helped raise more than £500 towards the JAM fund.

The King of the Punters on televised football was John Charles.

The KGB Trophy

The KGB Trophy is a competition where you follow a Premiership team of your choice and predict exactly how well you think they will do before the season starts!

Ben Bennett told The GEM: "It's a competition that has reached out to all four corners of the world and has a history of more than a decade.

"It has generated more than £7,000 of prize money and has helped raise money over the years, for different charities."

The calculations involved in determining the winner are complicated, but in joint fifth place on 184 points, both following Chelsea were Steven Abdullah and Christian Gibbs.

In third place (194 points), following Man City was Tony Spears.

This year's runner–up (196 points), winning £100 in prize money was Scott Hopkins.

In first place, and the new KGB champion with 204 points and prize money of £500 was Steve Mitchell.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery at 115 High Street, Barry from 4pm-6pm on Friday, June 25.

No appointment necessary. For more information, call the constituency office on 01446 740981.

Rock gardens

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society will meet on June 30 at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, to welcome back Phil Thomas, who will give a talk on rock gardens and water features.

He is a former lecturer at Pencoed College. Admission to the lecture and refreshments free. Members and prospective members warmly welcomed.

Flower festival

THE Friends of St Lawrence at Lavernock Point have started the countdown to opening the church for a Flower Festival on July 10 from 11am-5pm and July 11 from 2pm-5pm, with an afternoon service at 3pm on July 11.

Further details on 029 2070 1303.

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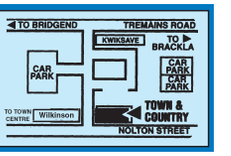

THE 57th Barry District Scout and Guide annual fete will take place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 3, with the official opening at 1.15pm.

This year's fete will celebrate 100 years of girl guiding and will feature displays from the Above and Beyond display team, Welsh Piping Society as well as the Scout and Guide Centenary Challenge.

The aerial display team will provide visually stunning and breathtaking aerial displays. International performers combine the grace of dance with acrobatic agility and circus thrills, to create unique, highly-skilled spectacular shows, which move from the ground up to 35ft in the air, finishing with heart-stopping finales. They have thrilled audiences throughout the world.

Due to the rising costs of staging the fete, and the return of a professional act to the arena, the cost of purchasing a programme has risen to a fixed price of £2, but is still great value for money and includes the free lucky prize draw.

For a list of places where you can buy a programme, please visit our website www.barryscouts.org.

Many thanks for your support over the years.

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THE MAYOR OF BARRY COUNCILLOR KARL KUHNELL
Wishes the Barry Scouts and Guides a Successful Fete

Barry Scouts and Guides 2010
The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor Colin Osbourne, is pleased to support the Barry Scouts and Guides 2010 fete and wishes them a successful event

Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2010
Mae Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Colin Osbourne, yn falch o gael cefnogi Gwyl Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2010 ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant iddi.

***LEFT:** Ernie Haines and his wife Sue, present a cheque for £250 to a clearly delighted Basil Watkins, who organised the St John event at Dyffryn Gardens.*

ST JOHN CALLS THE TUNE AT DYFFRYN GARDENS

ONCE again, the usual tranquil surroundings of Dyffryn Gardens resonated to the stirring sounds of the South Wales Police Band, by kind permission of the Chief Constable.

The occasion was the annual Midsummer Music concert organised by the St John Council for the Vale. The music had something to satisfy every taste; from military marches, songs from the shows and traditional Welsh airs.

A capacity audience showed their appreciation by tapping their feet, humming or enthusiastically singing. It was very much an inter-active show.

In one case, a burly character, bearing a striking resemblance to Elvis, emerged from the band, and danced to 'One o'clock, two o'clock rock' etc, with a glamorous young lady.

In another instance, an outrageously attired cross dresser appeared in a fru fru and multi coloured tights to dance a most daring Can Can with two other young ladies...I wonder if the Chief Constable is aware of these members of his force?

It was a fundraising event for the St John Ambulance in the Vale and there was a pleasant surprise when an additional donation was made by Mr Ernie Haines, immediate past master of the Miskin Free Masons Lodge, and his wife Sue, who presented a cheque for £250 to swell the proceeds to over £2,000.

The grand finale occurred in the setting sun with the ceremony of Beating Retreat.

The hushed audience, after the evening hymn, burst into wild applause as the band marched off to 'Men of Harlech' as the Lord Lieutenant, Dr Peter Beck, took the salute.

Once again, it was a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

BW

Welsh Livery Guild awards for students

Tony Williams and Wing Commander Graeme Morgan of the Welsh Livery Guild, Ashley Rees, Dan Jenkins, Gareth Evans and Barry College Principal Paul Halstead .

THREE aerospace and engineering students at Barry College have each been presented with an award by the Welsh Livery Guild.

They are Gareth Evans (19) and Ashley Rees (17) both from Bridgend, and Dan Jenkins (20) from Barry.Gareth is an electrical engineering student, while Dan and Ashley both study aerospace engineering.

Each received a cheque for £150, a certificate and a tankard.

The Welsh Livery Guild was established for the purpose of promoting science, art and technology across Wales and has a programme of awards to encourage people in their chosen career area.

Presenting the cheques and certificates, Guild Past Master, Wing Commander Graeme Morgan, said: "We were only going to award two people from Barry College this year but the quality was of such a high standard that we have selected three."

Ty Hafan family fun day

THE Ty Hafan annual family fun day will be held this Sunday June 27, from 12 noon until 6pm, with music from Barry Brass Band and the Copthorne Panto Company with songs from West End shows.

Displays will include the South Wales police dog unit and (most) children will love the snakes and creepy crawlies from Animal Zone UK.

Stalls range from ceramics, jewellery, Indian shoes and clothing. Children can enjoy the bouncy castle, check out the fire engine and the Formula 1 car or have their portrait drawn by caricature artist Gremlyn.

Last year one of the main attractions for keen gardeners proved to be the Ty Hafan Garden stall with hundreds of plants being sold to give a huge boost to the fundraising on the day. This year there will be an even greater selection of donated plants.

All funds raised at the Ty Hafan Family Fun Day go towards the work of the hospice.

For more information, visit www.tyhafan.org or contact 029 2067 2060.

Canine show for the Amelia Trust

BARRY, Penarth & *South Glamorgan Canine Society is holding a companion dog show, in aid of local charity the Amelia Trust, on Sunday, July 25.*

The show opens at 10am and judging commences at 11am. Pedigree and novelty classes will be judged by Mr Paul Charwin. There will be refreshments available and side attractions.

The event is being held at Amelia Trust Farm, Whitton Rosser, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

For further information, email: barrypenarthcs@aol.com

Bereavement self-help group

THE third meeting of the 'bereavement by suicide' self-help group, organised by Bridgend Samaritans, will take place on Thursday, July 1, at 7pm in the Haywain, Brackla.

The Bridgend branch of the Samaritans has a new director, Christine, who has started her three-year period.

She said: "We believe there is a need for this recently-launched group, where people who have been affected by suicide can share their feelings in confidence .

"Anyone affected in any way, whether they be family or friends, is welcome. Local Samaritans will be there to facilitate discussions, if necessary."

The meeting takes place in the function room of the Haywain public house. Entrance is by the side entrance.

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The Ryder Cup will put Wales on the world golfing map

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE arrival of the Ryder Cup in Wales is arguably the biggest sporting event ever to hit the Principality.

The Commonwealth Games in 1958 was big, but that was when TV was in its infancy, so only spectators near Cardiff could see much of the action.

The Rugby World Cup is a contender, but when it comes to TV viewers, the American and European audiences who follow golf will almost certainly make the Ryder Cup the biggest.

This massive TV audience, of course, offers Wales the ultimate PR platform to make foreign viewers aware of our history, our heritage, the natural beauty of our coastline and mountains, and the variety of excellent golf courses here.

The centrepiece of the TV coverage will be the 2010 stadium course at Celtic Manor, just outside Newport, built with £16 million from Wales' computer technology billionaire, Sir Terry Matthews – and it is a course built absolutely with the Ryder Cup in mind.

The European Tour played the 2010 course recently at the Wales Open and it was clear that spectators should have plenty of eagles and birdies to cheer. The course has been described as a 'high risk - high reward' layout, particularly suited to match play.

Someone one down on the 377-yard par four 15th, for instance, can choose to cut the corner and go for the green. Wales' Rhys Davies did so and holed the eagle putt on his way to a last round 62.

However, such fireworks were not enough as Irishman Graeme McDowell held on to win with a 63!

The course has been designed with the Ryder Cup in mind in another way. The event is unusual in that, on the first two days, there are only four matches out on the course at any one time – four morning foursomes and four afternoon fourballs.

This means that the expected 45,000 spectators each day could end up fighting to see anything. To counter this, huge viewing banks have been created on several of the holes, including the 16th, 17th and 18th, where the drama should be most intense.

The Celtic Manor Resort's director of golf, Jim McKenzie, said: "This is the first golf course in Ryder Cup history to be purpose-built for the event. It has been constructed since we won the bid to stage the event back in 2001.

"We have been able to build in challenges specifically for the match play drama of the Ryder Cup – with drivable par fours, reachable par fives, tests of strategy, and penalising water hazards."

The Roman remains at nearby Caerleon provide a historical backdrop that you can't find on any American course, and Carleon has its own modest amphitheatre.

It is pushing it a bit to call the modern golfer a 'gladiator' – after all, no one dies when they miss the cut – but the 2010 course at Celtic Manor will be its own amphitheatre for this golfing special drama.

Is Europe excited? – Our man in Luxembourg, he say YES!

Is *Europe as excited about the Ryder Cup as we are in Wales?*

Who better to ask than a local young man, LEON MARKS, who has been working as a golf professional in Europe for the past seven years?

Leon is well qualified to speak, as he is married to a Dutch woman, lives in Germany, and works across the border in Luxembourg.

WHEN I was asked if I could write a piece for a newspaper back home about how the people in mainland Europe are viewing the Ryder Cup and its venue, it made me think back to when I grew up in Porthcawl, and played golf as a junior at Pyle and Kenfig.

I later worked at the Royal Porthcawl, Lakeside and then returned to P&K to finish my PGA qualifications.

After qualifying, I moved to the Netherlands for a year before settling in Luxembourg.

Luxembourg is probably one of the most cosmopolitan places in the world where speaking just four languages is average.

However, there are few Welsh people here, so I am seen as an expert on Celtic Manor by the locals, and all the keen golfers are constantly asking me about the Ryder Cup, and about Wales.

Interest was so great that I decided to arrange for a small group of golfers to visit Wales, playing Royal Porthcawl and Pyle and Kenfig and staying overnight in the Fairway Hotel in Porthcawl.

For players in landlocked Luxembourg, where they are used to parkland courses, they found the two Porthcawl links courses a real challenge.

Then it was on to Newport and the 2010 course, where we stayed in the Celtic Manor Hotel.

All I can say is, they loved the two-day golfing experience..

They appreciated the 2010 course more knowing that it's a matchplay event with such risk and reward.

I must say that I had a 10-footer on the par four 15th for an eagle, which I believe will be a signature hole there in this tournament.

How do mainland Europe see the Ryder Cup? Well, I was told by my members how fantastic the course looked on TV for the Welsh Open.

I will be lucky enough to be at Celtic Manor watching, and I know that golf club members in Luxembourg will be watching excitedly.

PENARTH-BORN SINGER'S TRIBUTE TO RYDER CUP

by PHILIP IRWIN

THERE are not many songs about golf. There's the Bing Crosby one that starts off 'straight down the middle' but that's about it.

Golf is, let's face it, not very rock and roll.

It did get a boost when Alice Cooper owned up to playing off a five handicap, but good old Vince (his real name) was the exception.

However, the thrill of seeing the Ryder Cup come to Wales has inspired Penarth-born Martyn Joseph to 'come out' as a golfer and compose a special song for the Celtic Manor showdown.

Martyn, who has a well-established reputation as a serious and versatile singer songwriter, and has even been called the 'Welsh Springsteen', has written 'On This Celtic Morning', about the USA v Europe clash.

All those teenage years playing on the excellent Glamorganshire Golf Club, combined with the imminent arrival of the Ryder Cup, meant that he coiuld hide his secret passion no longer.

Martyn's first performance was at a star-studded event in Cardiff last Friday night (June 18) when Ian Woosnam, Wales's only major golf winner, was enrolled into the revered Welsh Sports Hall of Fame.

A winner himself of the BBC Welsh Music Awards 'Best Male Artist', Martyn took to the stage at the Mercure Holland House Hotel event to give the first live performance of 'On this Celtic Morning'.

Martyn, who at 17 became the youngest ever club champion at Glamorganshire Golf Club (a record he still holds), said of the song: "I have often effused about my love affair with the ancient game of golf.

"It's a sport I have played as best as I could since I was 10 years old and if you "get it" then you know how all consuming it is.

"With the Ryder Cup coming to Wales for the first time, I found myself toying with a few lyrical ideas that eventually became this song."

He set himself the challenge of embracing the unique spirit of the game, and it is hopefully an acknowledgement of the past, as well as the amazing skills of today's top golfers.

He has now released a video of the song, which salutes past and present golfing greats from Tiger Woods to Bernhard Langer, Jack Nicklaus and Seve Ballesteros.

LEFT: Ryder Cup legend Bernhard Langer (left) with Penarth singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph

A free download of the song is also available from his website at *www.martynjoseph.com*

Certainly, with Martyn's credentials, the song was never going to be a Chas and Dave singalong.

MOJO magazine called him "a challenging songwriter and compelling and courageous live performer" and the BBC's Bob Harris praised the "outstanding lyrical intelligence" of his songs.

However, Martyn told The GEM that during his teens, the only thing in his mind was making a career as a pro golfer.

At just 15, he was playing off a handicap of one and competed in the British Amateur, British Youths and British Boys championships in the 70s and early 80s. During that time he also reached the last eight of the Welsh Amateur Championships.

He said: "My father subsidised me and for two years I played the top amateur events, looking to make a name for myself and perhaps attract a sponsor so that I could turn pro."

He did well, but he also realised how many talented players were out there trying to make it. The crunch, said Martyn, probably came at the Royal Porthcawl.

He explained: "The Epson tournament was at the Royal, and I tried to pre-qualify for it. Playing well enough to just get into the tournament was tough.

"I was on the practice ground, alongside a number of guys who had to pre-qualify for each event, and they were making their way from event to event in camper vans.

"They were all class golfers and they were struggling to make it.

"One of them was Ian Woosnam!"

Martyn decided it was time to look for a new direction in life – and music beckoned.

Martyn reflected: "Although golf doesn't have a high profile in music, quite a lot of figures do play

"There's Alice Cooper, Huey Lewis, the drummer from Aerosmith and the list goes on.

"In fact, golf was useful in promoting my career. On tour in America my management would have me out on the golf course in the morning playing with radio station bosses, as a way of introducing me!"

There is still, inevitably, a side of Martyn that would like to have made that career in golf.

He said: "In golf, you are as good as your scorecard – simple as that.

"Music, on the other hand, is a little more prone to fashion and to subjective judgements."

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Cymru Wales

ABOVE: The members of the BCBC cabinet celebrate with a round of 99s at Cosy Corner.

£3 MILLION GRANT TO DEVELOP WATERSPORT CENTRE

Tesco to kick-start Porthcawl regeneration

THE question that everyone in Porthcawl has been asking has finally been answered – and it's Tesco!

Ever since the latest plan for Porthcawl regeneration was announced, it has been known that the first stage would include a supermarket on Hillsboro Place.

The question was – which one?

Yesterday evening, the official announcement by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) revealed that it was Tesco – who are going to build a "superstore".

Further details were revealed, including the creation of a watersports centre, and the intention to "market" Jennings Building.

Joint venture company Chelverton Deeley Freed has been selected as the preferred developer for phase one of the scheme.

This will focus on Salt Lake and Hillsboro Place, and will include the creation of the new Tesco superstore.

As well as the superstore, the phase one plans will also deliver:

- A link to Dock Street and the town centre, featuring new shops.
- New car parking facilities.
- New landscaped public spaces.
- Changes to the existing highway system.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The development will be the first stage in the regeneration of the waterfront area and will allow other key phases to progress – including land that has been reserved for leisure use in the area around the lower part of Salt Lake Car Park, and Jennings Building, which will be marketed to potential developers later this year.

"Future phases will also include residential development along the Eastern Promenade and new community provision on sites near the existing Portway roundabout.

"A number of bids were received for the retail development from potential developers and all were subject to a rigorous selection process which was conducted according to non-preferential European rules, guidelines and timescales."

The spokesman continued: "While the selection of Chelverton Deeley Freed is currently subject to contracts being exchanged and the obtaining of all relevant planning permissions, BCBC and its phase one partners believe that the developer and its backers, Tesco, are best-placed to benefit both this element of the regeneration scheme and the community of Porthcawl."

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, said: "The announcement that a developer has been selected for phase one of the Porthcawl Regeneration Strategy is fantastic news and is particularly welcome in the current economic climate.

"It comes at a time when a high number of regeneration schemes in other areas have faltered, with some grinding to a complete halt.

"The level of interest expressed by private sector developers in this scheme is a positive sign which demonstrates that there is a strong desire to invest in Porthcawl.

"This will strengthen and improve Porthcawl's reputation as a commercial centre and tourist destination."

Porthcawl is also set to become a hub for watersports after BCBC and Visit Wales confirmed funding towards a £3 million scheme based at Porthcawl Harbour and Rest Bay that will link in with the wider Swansea Bay area.

The harbour scheme will see new engineering works and a refurbishment of the dock, new pontoons, extra berths for leisure and commercial boats and the installation of a new lock gate, which will ensure that a permanent body of water can be retained in the dock basin.

The project will also create new facilities at Rest Bay including showers, easier beach access, lockers and improved security.

One of only three coastal projects in Wales to receive approval, the bid was a joint application between BCBC and the City and County of Swansea.

The spokesman said: "The watersports centre of excellence will complement the overall regeneration strategy for Porthcawl and establish the harbour area as a central part of the waterfront regeneration proposals."

As part of the centre of excellence, BCBC and its partners are seeking to establish a new "adrenaline and watersports festival".

Talks with potential organisers are currently taking place about developing an annual event that will extend the traditional tourist season, increase Porthcawl`s reputation as a popular visitor destination and boost trade and the local economy.

Coun David Sage, deputy leader for BCBC, said:

"This is an exciting time for Porthcawl and is the culmination of a lot of hard work that will serve to act as a catalyst for further regeneration.

"The announcement of a phase one developer and the watersports centre of excellence project are a major boost for the town and the wider county borough.

"As well as bringing a great deal of investment into the town, these schemes also form important stepping stones in our efforts to deliver a long-term sustainable future for the community of Porthcawl."

The GEM asked Coun Sage about the use of the word "marketing" in relation to Jennings Building.

A group of local artists recently put forward a plan to create an arts centre there, while local historian Keith E Morgan has approached Porthcawl Town Council with a proposal that a maritime museum should be created there.

Museums and arts centres, though, are rarely self-financing, and with local government cuts in the offing, BCBC may prefer a purely commercial arrangement.

However, Coun Sage said that nothing was being ruled out at this stage when it came to the future of Jennings Building.

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: Jennings Building on Porthcawl Harbour is to be "marketed". Local arts groups have proposed that an arts and crafts centre should go there, while local historian Keith E Morgan (pictured above) believes it would be the ideal site for a maritime museum highlighting Porthcawl's past.

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Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

Barry College is celebrating 50 years of its life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. To look at photographs of College life from the last 50 years, log on to our Facebook page 'I ❤ BARRY'. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, contact us by email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015

You are invited to Barry College's 50th Birthday Party!

Monday 28th June 2010
10.00am – 1.00pm
Barry College, Colcot Road

Tour the College. Visit your old classroom and see how it's changed. Take part in a special live radio broadcast. Join in with our 50th celebration Balloon Pop. View photos from the last 50 years. Meet past staff and students. Have some birthday cake, pick up a party bag of goodies...and much more!

Past student? Past staff member? Just interested?

Call 01446 725015 for more information or just come along!

'The money just kept rising...'

M&S staff hand a bumper £25,700 cheque to charity

STAFF at Marks and Spencer Culverhouse Cross chose the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth as their charity of the year in 2009.

They have spent the past year raising funds in a wide variety of ways including a wonderful 'Mamma Mia' themed dinner at the Vale Hotel at Hensol, and numerous in-store activities that have brought the staff together in a common desire to help care for local patients with cancer and other illnesses.

ABOVE: Lorraine Barrett AM, Caroline Williams from Marks and Spencer Culverhouse Cross, Karen Jones, fundraising manager at the Penarth hospice and Baroness Finlay of Llandaff.

Karen Jones, the hospice fundraising manager said: "Caroline Williams, the visual merchandise manager from the store, got in touch to discuss ways of working together and the charity was chosen by a massive vote from staff, which was great because it meant that they were all aware of the wonderful work that we do here.

"Caroline had spent time at the hospice in the past when we cared for her grandmother, and she was really pleased to be able to suggest ways that the Culverhouse Cross store could get involved."

The hospice needed to refurbish two day rooms and a target of £5,000 was set.

However, things didn't go according to plan, as a delighted Karen explained: "The money kept on rising and the final total, with matched funding from Marks and Spencers, came to a whopping £25,700!

"It was great to work with everyone at Marks and Spencers at Culverhouse Cross and on behalf of our patients, I would like to say a huge thank you for such a wonderful partnership.

"If any other companies would like to contact me and talk about similar ways that we can work together, I would be really pleased to hear from you"

The cheque presentation was held at a 'Blooming Great Tea Party' evening held by 'Holm House' in Penarth where the hospice patron, Lorraine Barrett (AM for Cardiff South and Penarth) and Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, an expert in palliative care,both spoke of the fantastic work that is being carried out by staff at the hospice and the need to continue to raise funds in the local community to ensure that these wonderful services can continue to grow.

School's pupils get golfing experience

THIRTEEN pupils from St Clare's School in Porthcawl won an exciting visit to the Ryder Cup Wales Senior Open at the prestigious Royal Porthcawl Golf Course.

The pupils all designed posters to promote the forthcoming Ryder Cup to be held in the Celtic Manor Resort later this year.

The pupils were awarded certificates and had the opportunity to take advantage of some specialist golf coaching from local professionals.

Hannah Wooton was runner up in the competition and the school will receive golf coaching at the Royal Porthcawl as part of the prize.

They even met Ian Woosnam and several other famous golfers including Sam Torrance.

Head of St Clare's, Catherine Barnard, commented:"Well done to our pupils for doing so well in the poster competition. We all really enjoyed our day at the Royal Porthcawl, and the pupils were delighted to get the chance to meet world famous golfers on our doorstep".

ABOVE: St Clare's golfers of the future

LEFT: Grace Dalton displays her certificate.

ABOVE: Joseph Richards meets Ian Woosnam

RIGHT: Hannah Wooton with her certificate

FAMILY OPEN DAY AT POLICE STATION

Darren Thomas (11) a pupil at Pencoed Primary School is briefed about the open day by Neighbourhood Inspectors Alan James of Porthcawl (left) and Jay Winslade-Gregory of Bridgend.

A FAMILY open day at Bridgend police station on Sunday, July 4 between 11am and 4pm will offer the public a rare glimpse behind the scenes and a chance to talk to local and specialist officers.

There will be a police dogs' presentation, traffic and armed response police, and real life crime scene investigators (CSI) who will take fingerprints, along with a tour of the cells!

In addition, there will be a fire service presentation, birds of prey display and a street rugby league competition, competitions, face painting for children, and various stands.

Admission is free.

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Maesteg JP has key role in new probation trust

A Maesteg magistrate and former health boss will be playing a key role in protecting the public in the Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil areas.

Christine Court has been appointed to the Board of the new Wales Probation Trust.

The new organisation replaces for four separate probation services that used to serve Wales.

Mrs Court, previously a board member of the South Wales Probation Trust was the former head of occupational herapy services for Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust and a member of the Bridgend Local Health Board.

ABOVE: Christine Court, who has been appointed to the board of the new Wales Probation Trust.

Talking crime prevention over coffee or two

SAFER Bridgend supported Rogue Trader Week by holding a crime prevention coffee morning at Litchard Mission on Monday.

It was organised by local PCSO Donovan Smith in partnership with Safer Bridgend, Frontline Support Officer, Gaynor Cassidy and Ellis Roberts from Trading Standards.

PCSO Donovan Smith was concerned by an incident in which an elderly man from the Litchard area was scammed out of £2,000 when he was cold-called by a rogue trader offering to clean his driveway.

The morning was used to inform local residents about the issues of doorstep crime, provided them with details of organisations which can assist them and it was was supported by Trading Standards, Care and Repair, Handyvan, Telecare and older persons co-ordinator, Stuart Burge-Jones.

SEASIDE PHOTOS

A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition by Anna Proctor, entitled 'Beside the Sea' opens at St Donats Arts Centre on June 28.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

THE St Brides Major Community Council met at the church hall on June 14 when the local PCSO gave a report on crime figures for the period May 10-June 14 – this included:

Damage at Three gold Cups, Southerndown; criminal damage to motor vehicle, Ogmore-by-Sea; a laptop stolen from Southerndown Beach Café; lead stolen from Ogmore Trust Centre; male caught in possession of cannabis at Ogmore-by-Sea beach car park and given street warning; and a burglary at Southerndown.

Coun Geof Gain was in the chair and there were apologies for absence from five councillors.

It was resolved to consult the public regarding the playground area at Ogmore-by-Sea.

Finance working group will see which two bus shelters are in most need of repair and report back to the July meeting.

Members will urgently chase the Vale Council re the state of the (sheep) fences at Ogmore-by-Sea. Work has taken place to repair the eastern wall in the burial ground and quotes are requested for further work to be carried out.

Quotes are requested to carry out work to mitigate the overgrowth of tree branches affecting Tyn-y-Porth Farm, St Brides Major.

Donations of £60 each were approved to the following applicants: Follow your Dreams, Victim support Group, Horse and Pony Centre and Pit Pony Sanctuary, Ogmore Retired Residents' Association, Tenovus.

the quarry liaison committee will contact the manager of Pant Quarry to find out why there is such a large volume of lorries passing through the village of St Brides Major.

the next meeting will take place on Monday, July 12 at 7pm at the Church Hall, St Brides Major.

Dates for the diary: June 24-25, fourth annual youth festival at Ewenny Priory church at 7pm, tickets £5; June 25, Mothers' Union monthly Eucharist at All Saints church, Southerndown, 10am; July 1, ORRA will meet at the Watermill for a members' contribution afternoon.

A Popular Choice
Park Crescent, Barry...

Park Crescent, a window to the sea

PARK CRESCENT is known in Barry as a thriving local shopping area which offers the personal touch, but what some people don't know is that for many visitors to the town it represents 'The Gateway to the Sea'.

Whether it has been school trips from the Valleys or coach trips from the west country and midlands, many excited youngsters got their first glimpse of the sea on the run down to Barry Island.

Park Crescent is popular with local people who want a first class service from niche businesses, but also visitors anxious to pick up a few last-minute essentials for a day at the beach!

ABOVE: Alan Petersen, manager, and Doreen Oakley, deputy manager, of Grape Vine.

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ABOVE: The Grape Vine

'Hairdressing at affordable prices...'

BELLE Donne Gallesi, unisex hair salon on Park Crescent, offers quality hairdressing at affordable prices.

Jennifer is a fully-qualified stylist with considerable experience and is now well-established with clients from the local area, as well as from Penarth and Dinas Powys.

Jennifer specialises in precision cutting and colours with the latest quality products available.

Business has been so good that Jennifer has taken on junior stylist, Leyah, who is available Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

To book an appointment, telephone 01446 734666.

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ARE you a pet owner? Are there times when you need help with your pet? Do you need your dog walked?

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Room Designs: for all your design needs

ABOVE: Jodie Hopkin, manager of Room Designs.

ROOM DESIGNS and furnishings opened in Park Crescent on June 4.

Meryl and Jodie are a mother and daughter team. Meryl has a wealth of experience in design with 15 years refurbishing hotels.

Room Designs specialise in soft furnishings, fabrics, wallpapers, cushions and home accessories.

Meryl adds: "We offer a home service to help you to design your room and create colour mood boards. You can select from one of our many collections of wallpapers and fabrics with quality ranges, such as Prestigious Textiles, Panaz, Romo, Kai plus many others."

Room Designs is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm and Saturday, 9am-1pm or appointments can be made for other times.

Call in to Room Designs, 118a Park Crescent, Barry, or telephone 01446 700500.

Success is thanks to old fashioned values

ANNE and Rachel have built a unique and specialised dancewear business that is proud to be able to offer dancers in Barry, and across south Wales, the most extensive range of dancewear, gymwear and aerobicwear in the region.

They have put the success of A & A Dancewear down to adhering to old fashion values – excellent customer care and the highest quality products at affordable prices.

Among the many products that A & A Dancewear stock are:

All types of dancewear – ballet, jazz, tap, flamenco, modern and street (official suppliers of RAD-ISTD dance uniforms and RAD approved character skirts), gym, disco and aerobic wear.

All types of dance shoes – flamenco (only stockist in Wales), pointe shoes, rhythmic, salsa and ballroom shoes and dance sneakers.

Official suppliers of school uniforms for Barry schools.

Wedding shoes, gifts and accessories, dance, ballroom and bridal bags.

A & A Dancewear also offer a shoe dyeing service.

They stock dance labels too: Agiva, Arabesque, Bloch, Bodybox, Bunheads, Capezio, Freed, Grishko, Katz, Le Papillon, Milano and Trutex uniforms, and offers next day delivery service.

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Pupils in road safety training

PUPILS from Barry Comprehensive School were recently offered the opportunity to have quality road safety training.

The national charity BUSK visited the school and, in partnership with the fire service at Barry Fire Station, spent a morning highlighting emergency evacuation, safe entry and exit procedures and many other related problems.

A&A Dancewear
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Young volunteers take to their bikes for British Heart Foundation day

DOZENS of local youngsters took part in the British Heart Foundation bicycle ride at Llandow recently.

As well as enjoying some early morning exercise they, had collected sponsorship to raise funds for a charity which aims to fight heart disease and encourage healthy living.

College trainees raise funds to help Ty Hafan

A GROUP of young trainee carpenters from Barry College have been busy this year helping community projects, including raising £500 for the children's hospice Ty Hafan.

As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate/Pathways to Apprenticeship course, the students learn new skills in carpentry and joinery and complete two modules with a strong 'community focus'.

One of the modules is based around community participation. For this, the students adopted a beach on behalf of the Marine Conservation Society.

Having decided on Jackson's Bay on Barry Island, the students set about a beach cleanup, collecting and disposing of litter.

They then conducted a survey of the debris found for the society, which will be used as part of a world wide study of items left or dropped on beaches.

For the 'team enterprise activity' module, the 23 students sold carpentry products at the College's Christmas fayre last year. The students made wooden hanging baskets, planters and hand-made pens from recycled timber, with all money raised donated to Ty Hafan.

Vale Council confirm £500 commitment

THE Vale Council is set to become the first council in Wales to publish details of purchases made by its services costing more than £500.

Leader of the council, Gordon Kemp, said: "I believe that local government offers greater transparency than any other public sector. Vale Council agendas, reports and meeting minutes are available on our website, as are details of members' expenses.

In these times of budget cuts, we must balance the cost of providing such information with the need to be publicly accountable.

"However, I have requested that an online database detailing payments from the council to suppliers is made available as soon as possible.

"Providing the database will cost very little and improve the transparency of the council and our accountability to our residents."

The council hopes the database will be available by September.

ANCESTOR TRAIL

MEMBERS of the Vale Heritage Centre Coalition are offering a free family military research service for visitors to Armed Forces Day 2010 at the Pier Head Building in Cardiff Bay this Saturday, June 26.

It is joining forces with the Western Front Association (South Wales branch) to stage a display of First World War weapons, artefacts and memorabilia.

Chairman Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "We will also be able to tell visitors more about their ancestors who served during the Great War by offering an on-line research service.

"There will also be a powerpoint display on the battles of the Great War, period music, and local historian Gavin Davies will be giving three illustrated talks."

The display opens at 10am and closes at 6pm. The VHCC's website is: http://glamorganheritage.org/

NEWS FROM THE OCEAN LOUNGE

Have YOU got the talent?

ON Sunday, July 18, the Ocean Lounge at Porthkerry Leisure Park, Porthkerry, will present a harmonica extravaganza featuring National Harmonica League member and professional musical performer, Aidan Sheehan.

The workshops cost £10 per person, including a free harmonica for you to keep!

Places are limited. Contact Phil Edwards at The Ocean Lounge; Porthkerry Caravan Park, Barry CF62 3Z, or phone 01446 710362 or email lordyplums@hotmail.com; www.whiskeyriver.co.uk.

Porthkerry's Got Talent!

Porthkerry's Got Talent 2010 will be the second year of what is surely becoming an annual event at the Ocean Lounge, Porthkerry Leisure Park.

Last year, the event attracted more than 60 applicants from south Wales, including vocalists, bands, dancers and comedy acts.

The competition was closely fought throughout the heats and semi-finals, and with the help of the audience, plus judges, including Dave Brookes from Real Radio, the final had everyone on the edge of their seats.

The winner, with a fantastic vocal display, was Gordon Griffith from Newport, closely followed by up and coming youngsters Chris Brown and Jordan Richards with their double act on guitars and keyboards. All together, more than £1,000 was raised through these nights for Ty Hafan.

This year's event will take place on Sunday nights (except the final on August Bank Holiday Monday) from July 18 until August 29. The first acts will start at 7pm.

The contest is open to anyone over the age of 14 – and any type of act, including speciality, vocalists, dancers, duos, instrumentalists, to perform at the Ocean Lounge where full music and lighting facilities will be available.

This year it will be supporting and raising money for a very special charity.

There is a £10 per act entry fee, which has been charged to attract serious entrants and is used towards staging and production. For application into Porthkerry's Got Talent, please ring 01446 710362/711538 or call in to the club or main office for an application form.

The Ocean Lounge at Porthkerry Leisure Park is proud to be joining forces with SalsAdiccion to bring some Cuban flair to the Vale.

Every Wednesday from July 7 for eight weeks, Charlotte from SalsAdiccion will teach complete beginners how to make the most of this easy to learn dance style.

Lessons are from 7.30pm for two hours, followed by dancing 'till late for only £4. For any more information, please contact Phil on 01446 711538 or email lordyplums@hotmail.com

Fluff is looking for a home

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012.
***email**: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk*

THIS WEEK: FLUFF

THIS is Fluff, a long haired eight-year-old tabby female cat. She was brought to the Bridgend Adoption centre because she didn't get on with the other two cats in the home.

Fluff

She is a quiet little cat who loves to curl up on the settee rather than a lap. She likes a groom but not for too long but does keep herself clean.

She is on some drops in her food once a day to help from being a little stiff. Unfortunately, this can come with age!

We are looking for a peaceful home with someone who wants a companion. Does this sound like you?

TWO NEW ASSISTANT CHIEFS JOIN FORCE

South Wales Police has two new Chief Police Officers, following the appointment of Matt Jukes and Julian Kirby as new Assistant Chief Constables.

Matt Jukes, 37, will transfer to south Wales from south Yorkshire Police, where he has previously been borough commander for Rotherham and director of Intelligence.

Mr Jukes joined the police service in 1995 and has risen through the ranks swiftly.

As well as being a borough commander, he has wide experience in counter-terrorism and policing critical incidents.

Speaking of his appointment, Mr Jukes said: "I am over the moon to be joining south Wales Police.

"I look forward to drawing on my experiences of policing as I arrive in my new post.

"South Yorkshire is also an area with a heritage of coal and steel industries, so south Wales already feels very familiar.

"I've been working in south Wales on secondment for a couple of months already and my family are equally excited by the move – not least my youngest daughter, who has become addicted to Welsh cakes!"

Julian Kirby, 48, joins south Wales from Wiltshire Police, leaving his post as divisional commander for the county, where he had responsibility for nearly 900 staff, operating from 20 stations.

Mr Kirby has been a police officer for 23 years.

Prior to being a divisional commander, he was head of force operations for Wiltshire Police, which included leading on various policing services, such as the local response to the London terrorist bombings.

Mr Kirby said: "I feel delighted and privileged to be joining South Wales Police.

"I am a passionate believer in actively involving the community in local policing and will look to build on the excellent work already being carried out."

The appointments, made by the Police Authority, are due to the promotion of Colette Paul to Deputy Chief Constable for south Wales, and the retirement of Dave Morris.

The new officers will take up their positions in the summer.

Winston needs a guiding hand

DOG OF THE WEEK

THE GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for dogs at the Bridgend rehoming centre. *(Telephone 01656 725219).*

THIS WEEK: ***A spokeswoman highlights Winston, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross.***

WINSTON

"Winston is one and a half years old. He's a sensitive young dog who gets quite worried in new situations.

"When he is worried or excited, he resorts to jumping up and mouthing. He is undergoing training at the moment to help teach him to remain calm on the lead, and his new owners will need to be calm and consistent with his handling.

"His training is going well and he is improving. He is housetrained and fine when left for a few hours."

Type of home needed: He needs an experienced owner, used to his breed and who is able to continue his training.

He needs to be the only animal in the home, and can live with older teenagers, 14 years and over.

Volunteer advice

ANYONE interested in volunteering in the Vale is invited to any of the Vale Volunteer Bureau's outreach sessions for advice and information.

They will be at Penarth Library on Wednesday, June 30, from 2pm-4pm, with special guests Stonewall Cymru.

For further information, contact Joe on (01446) 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MARKET HALL NEUADD FARCHNAD

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

LAST LINK WITH THE CHARACTER AND WARMTH OF THE PAST...

HISTORIC MARKET STILL REMAINS THE FOCAL POINT OF TOWN CENTRE

by JAYNE ISAAC

BRIDGEND'S historic market traces its origins back to the Middle Ages, when a charter was granted, which gave it protection from other markets being set up within a radius of six miles.

At that time, Bridgend was a small town on both banks of the river Ogmore which were linked by the old stone bridge – a prominent feature throughout the town's history.

The town continued like this for many years, with farmers bringing in their produce and their animals to trade from the surrounding area.

Well, the cattle market is long gone, but the town's charter market is flourishing in the market hall at the Rhiw Centre.

While Bridgend has changed out of all recognition from the town it was even 30 years ago, one thing has remained constant – the choice and value available to shoppers at the indoor market.

The market is the focal point of old Bridgend – the last remnant of the days when the town boasted a choice of fresh food shops.

With one or two exceptions, these have now all gone – to be replaced by chain stores, shoe shops, estate agents, building societies and the like.

However, for the shopper seeking quality fresh produce, the market remains an important stopping off point.

The market can offer butchers, greengrocers, delicatessens and Welsh produce stalls where staff know their regulars, who can expect first class service.

But the market is about more than just fresh food – it also offers a range of other stalls selling items ranging from clothing, jewellery, rugs, health foods, pet food, shoes, Welsh items and a myriad of other merchandise – a wonderfully eclectic mix that is a powerful draw to visitors and residents alike.

Bridgend market retains the last vestiges of character in a town that has sadly lost much of its personality through 'redevelopment'.

As someone brought up in Bridgend in the 1950s, it is still possible to recapture the warmth of those days simply by strolling around the market and chatting to stall holders.

Markets the world over are all about great value and good service – and Bridgend's is no exception. Long may it continue!

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Unit 34, Indoor Market, The Rhiw Shopping Centre, Bridgend CF31 1DL

Council's praise for residents' recycling efforts

ONE week after new waste and recycling collections were introduced throughout Bridgend county borough, the council is thanking residents for their enthusiastic response and co-operation.

A council spokesman said that the new service allows residents to recycle most of their household waste on a weekly basis, including all waste food, plastics, cans, cardboard, glass, tetra packs, paper and textiles.

The scheme has been praised by the Welsh Assembly Government, which this week chose Bridgend as its location to launch the Wales-wide 'Towards Zero Waste' initiative,

Since BCBC's new scheme began, it has seen massive amounts of material placed out for recycling by householders.

Coun John Spanswick, cabinet member for communities, said: "Bridgend County Borough Council takes the subject of recycling and waste very seriously and we are passionate about creating a cleaner and greener borough for the residents of today and tomorrow.

"It's clear from this week that residents are more than ready to play their part and we want to thank them for their patience and co-operation, as we know this has meant a big adjustment for households.

"We have been working hard to help residents understand what they now need to do.

"It has also been an adjustment for those collecting the recycling and waste and they have been working exceptionally long hours to complete rounds.

"But the positive response has been overwhelming, with many household even appearing to have stockpiled materials in anticipation of the new scheme beginning.

"I believe that the new procedures will make us one of the top performing local authorities in Wales for recycling waste and diverting it away from being disposed of as landfill.

Speaking at the launch of Towards Zero Waste, First Minister Carwyn Jones, who is the AM for Bridgend, said: "We must all make changes. Adopting a more sustainable approach to how we deal with our waste, will bring new investment and sustainable jobs to Wales."

Hair by Michael

SIAN, Julie and Michael invite you to come in and enjoy a new hairstyle.

With our fully trained staff, we pride ourselves on traditional and modern styles, catering for all ages.

Our gents' prices are from £6.50, Senior citizens £5 and under-12s £4.80.

Ladies prices include a dry trim from £7.50; wet cuts, cut and blow dry prices on request.

We also do ear piercing for £11.

Baking and brewing advice at Cookmate

EILEEN has everything you need to make home and celebration baking a real joy.

Learn how to create professional-looking cakes by going on a course. Eileen runs cake decorating courses for Wilton, just visit her stall and book.

Anyone who wishes to start home brewing must visit Cookmate. They stock a wide range of beer and wine-making kits, along with all the equipment and advice you might need.

Eileen's stall is overflowing with great things for getting creative in the kitchen.

A good selection of cake bases and ready-made icing motifs are also available.

Fone xcellence is our proud boast!

NOW over three years in Bridgend indoor market, where we provide all types of repair, including LCD repairs, powering up problems, network signal, water damaged phones, microphones, speakers, charging problems, keypad problems, phone reconditioning, security codes, software upgrades and languages installed. We buy and sell mobile phones.

Telephone 01656 668086, email: unlock_fones@yahoo.co.uk or visit us at the indoor market.

Old favourites, just like grandma used to make!

THE Teapot Café is a long established business with a new outlook.

We've decided to look back and cook all the old favourites properly, just like our grandparents would and have now introduced our summer menu.

This is why we peel and chip every Maris Piper by hand and select every ingredient for quality.

We ensure this by preparing the best home-cooked food we can.

A children's menu is available.

Why not visit for lunch and take your pudding for later? A warm welcome is assured.

Nips And Tucks

WE offer a traditional tailoring service and a wide range of haberdashery items.

Ribbons, buttons, fancy-dress materials and so much more are all in stock.

Call in and see us, we do all kinds of tailoring repairs and alterations, including curtains, cushion covers, leather garments (specialising in motorbike leather repairs) and so on.

Our friendly, helpful members of staff are always willing to give help and advice.

Established more than 20 years and now introducing Roman and Roller blinds, made to measure curtain service and cushions. *Tel. 01656 668266.*

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Rhenti wythnosol am gyfraddau cystadleuol

Ar gyfer pob ymholiad ac i ymuno â'n rhestr ohebu, ffoniwch yr Adran Eiddo ar 01656 642700 neu anfonwch neges e-bost i property@bridgend.gov.uk

BRIDGEND

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FORTE'S SUPER-SPY SPOOF FAILS TO STRIKE THE FUNNY BONE...

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

THE American comedy institution *Saturday Night Live* has proved to be both a fertile breeding ground for generations of comedians, yet has also helped produce those who haven't exactly set the world alight.

While esteemed alumni include Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy, Adam Sandler and Will Ferrell, there have also been the likes of Molly Shannon, Chris Katan and Cheri Oteri, whose work outside ...*Live* has lacked the impact they've enjoyed in their day job.

The latest cast member to try his luck on the big screen is Will Forte, whose character, *MacGruber* (based on 80s television show *MacGyver*), makes the transition from sketch to feature length film.

When his nemesis, Dieter Von Cunth (Val Kilmer), takes control of a nuclear weapon intent on blowing up America, only MacGruber can save the day. Teaming up with Lt Dixon Piper (Ryan Phillippe) and Vicki St Elmo (Kristen Wiig), will MacGruber, and his ability to construct weapons out of the most basic of items, be able to stop Cunth in time...

When I went to America way back in 1992, *MacGyver* seemed to be on constant rotation across the channels, the super-spy capable of using his scientific background to get his way out of any situation, coming across as a peculiar mix of *The A-Team* and *Blue Peter*.

Obviously striking a comic chord with Will Forte and the character's creator, Jorma Taccone, the character of MacGruber has been a hit on *Saturday Night Live* in sketch form – but as for a feature length film, well, sadly, it fails to hit the same heights.

The film suffers from its transition process, unable to sustain itself over the admittedly slight 90-minute running time, but is also far too reliant on crude humour and not enough on spoofing the intended target.

This isn't overly surprising, given that *Saturday Night Live* spin-offs either tend to soar (*Wayne's World*, *The Blues Brothers*) or sink (*A Night At The Roxbury*, *Superstar*). What is frustrating about *MacGruber* is that there are some decent enough touches that could have resulted in a far better end-product. Instead, in lieu of actual humour, there are just profanities, toilet jokes and lame attempts at humour that are far more miss than hit.

Coming from the mind of Jorma Taccone, who also directs the film, and also co-writes with Will Forte and John Solomon, the character is very funny in small doses, but ramped up for an hour-and-a-half doesn't work.

Taccone has built up a reputation for his work on both *Saturday Night Live* and with comedy band The Lonely Island, yet this is a misstep for him, the film lacking the invention and wit of his other work.

His direction is steeped in the action films of the 1980s, all slow motion explosions and hairspray, but feels lifeless and lacking in any real stylistic, or comedic, flair.

While Taccone takes great delight in the cheesy-blockbuster-ness of it all, there isn't the scope nor the budget on offer to truly lampoon the genre.

In the title role, Will Forte shows very little charisma or comedic skill, and does more mugging than actual acting.

Seeing as Forte's previous forays on the big screen in the likes of *The Brothers Solomon* have similarly failed to yield much in the way of positive feedback, it seems the actor may well be consigned to the smaller screen, as nothing he offers here either marks him out for any great reverence. In fact, you could say that comic acting is not his Forte (a line, by the way, that outstrips 90 per cent of those in the film).

Given the casting of 'proper' actors around him, no doubt to try to give the film a solid foundation, you would expect more from them, but they are dragged down to Forte's level, struggling for life under the constant bombardment of low-grade humour.

Ryan Phillippe may have undergone somewhat of a career rebirth, but here he's lucky to come out relatively unscathed.

He shows little ability for comedy, and it comes to something when the funniest thing he can do is place a stick of celery between his buttocks for a lazy, and very cheap, laugh.

Val Kilmer is in a similar position to Phillippe, and he too only just comes out unscathed mainly due to a lack of screen time.

While his character's name is a one-note joke that quickly falls flat, Kilmer, who is more than capable of comedy (just search out *Top Secret!* for evidence of that), isn't given any funny lines nor any humorous motivations; his villain is dull and lifeless, and Kilmer's performance embraces that.

In a film full of woeful and dull turns, it is Kristen Wiig who comes out with the most credit, despite firing on about 20 per cent capability.

Wiig is a hugely gifted comedic performer, the likes of *Whip It* and *Adventureland* attesting to that, and while she is anything but sensational here, she stands out from the crowd due to her naturalistic comedy and failure to drain of every drop of the laugh.

Hardly exemplary, but Wiig's turn is by far the most impressive thing in the film.

Despite the reliance on such low-brow humour, there are few gags that manage to hit home, albeit smothered by those that fail to hit their target.

MacGruber's propensity for taking his car stereo with him wherever he goes and a love-making scene that thoroughly skewers the genre convention are the most memorable, but in the main it is a film that lacks comedic conviction.

With a target that ran out of pop culture relevance nearly 20 years ago, and a lack of quality on show, *MacGruber* is another disappointing offshoot from *Saturday Night Live*.

VERDICT – A film that struggles to earn laughs, *MacGruber* shows it hasn't the legs or sustainability to go from TV sketch to feature film. A script that is lacking in invention, and an overreliance on puerile humour, means there is little to tickle the funny bone here.

While *MacGyver* could construct a weapon from a Swiss army knife and duct tape, not even the most skilled of filmmakers could construct a worthwhile film from this weak script and the poor performances. *Poor*.

AM's praise for Barry gardens

ABOVE and BELOW:
The AM admires the gardens.

VALE AM Jane Hutt recently visited two Barry gardens for the National Gardens Scheme.

She reported: "I started at Dave Bryant's wonderful garden in Aneurin Road with an incredible display of flowers and shrubs – the colours, scents and design were so impressive.

"Moving onto Debbie Palmer's garden, I loved the tranquillity and charm of the lily ponds, climbing roses, ferns and shaded areas.

These gardens will be open on August 1, as well as Dingles in the Knap, at the end of June. For further information, contact the National Gardens Scheme website."

OCEAN LOUNGE · PORTHKERRY

Welcome to . . .

Porthkerry's Got Talent 2010

Sunday Nights from 18th July until 30th August

The first acts will start at 7pm

Final August Bank Holiday Monday

Please pick up an application form for the full list of dates

May we introduce you to Porthkerry's Got Talent 2010, the second year of our annual talent event at the Ocean Lounge, Porthkerry Leisure Park. We hope the show will encourage both amateur and semi-professional entertainers to enter and showcase their talent and maybe this could be their first steps into work professionally in holiday venues, corporate events, cruises and television.

With a prize fund of £600 and judged by celebrated professionals in the media and entertainment industries, the show will be seen by many people who will vote for their favourite acts through the Audience Vote.

The contest is open to anyone over the age of 14. We are looking for any type of act including speciality, vocalists, dancers, duo's, instrumentalists, etc. to perform at the Ocean Lounge where full music and lighting facilities will be available to showcase your act in the best possible professional surroundings. We are hoping for celebrity judges at our Final in order to attract substantially more media attention and we are very proud this year to be supporting and raising money for a very special charity.

There is a £10 per act entry fee, which has been charged to attract serious entrants and is used towards staging and production. For application into Porthkerry's Got Talent please ring 01446 710362/711538 or email us at lordyplums@hotmail.com

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Saturday 3rd July
MIKE ST JOHN
Vocalist (9pm plus Bingo)

Friday 25th June
DANSETTE
Eight-piece band playing an authentic mix of 60s soul standards from the Stax/Atlantic/Motown stables. A soul journey through that golden era. Enjoyment is guaranteed! Doors open 7pm. Ticket entry £5

CAR BOOT SALE
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Every Thursday: Curry & A Pint £5.99
7-9pm - Quiz from 8.30pm

FOOD SERVED
Great Value menu from only £4.99
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Served 12 noon - 3pm from only £6.95

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Open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday evening from 7pm. Saturdays 12 noon - 4pm and 7pm - 12 midnight
Sundays 12 midday - 10.30pm – From Mid-July we will be open for lunches and evening meals.

BRAINS

Out and About with The GEM

BillBoard Ensemble to stage show of Beauty and the Beast

BILLBOARD Ensemble are currently in the final stages of rehearsals for this summer's musical spectacular Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, being staged at the Memorial Hall Theatre, Barry.

The cast is chosen, sets ordered and costumes being made for the story of a beautiful village girl 'Belle' who, while being pestered by the local romeo, falls in love with The Beast.

Beauty and the Beast runs from July 29, 30, 31 at 7.30pm with an additional matinee performance 2.30pm on July 31.

Tickets – adults £10, child/OAP £8 are now available from box offices at 'A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent, Barry and from 'Copy-It', Holton Road, Barry.

For more information, telephone 01446 400055.

Lois Banks (Belle) and Michael Bennett (the Beast).

Flat Holm unveiled – in music and pictures

THE Flat Holm Society and Barry Choral Society are presenting a unique event at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay on July 3 at 7.30pm, telling the story of Flat Holm Island in an unusual way.

This audio-visual feast takes you on a journey through the wildlife and history of the island. It is accompanied by Barry Choral Society choir, singing a medley of songs. Barry Comprehensive School will also contribute to the evening.

An interesting mix of photo, song and talk, is the culmination of ideas and knowledge from both societies. The photos are from the Flat Holm Project archive as well as from Flat Holm Society members and Barry Comprehensive School. Complementary songs were chosen by Barry Choral Society.

Tickets are £7 each, by phone from Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre on 02920 877 927 or Flat Holm Office on 02920 877912. Any profit from the evening will benefit both charities taking part.

GP

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www.adventurewales.co.uk

£22 per 45 mins £24.50 per hour

SCHOOL HISTORY

ON June 23, a new history of Howell's School, Llandaff, was launched at the school, immediately before an open house event as part of the school's celebrations for its 150th birthday this year.

Howell's School, Llandaff: A Legacy Fulfilled, traces its Tudor origins as the oldest in south Wales to the present day.

The author, Mrs Janet Sully, now semi-retired, taught at the school from 1978.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 623.

- **£2000:** 394890.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 220970; 328821; 704105; 878641; 256477; 672057; 276964; 290043; 128246; 496124; 438269; 107305; 671941; 773937; 333037; 321002; 442172; 713217; 418901; 688097.
- **£5:** 332641; 373372; 271609; 348293; 469878; 180423; 622034; 652545; 273605; 466830; 172887; 181773; 317111; 634149; 272793; 619207; 799871; 847385; 492311; 436753; 754731; 232318; 743409; 797365; 437637; 766598; 588470; 350561; 426545; 390745; 143188; 293014; 891505; 806592; 820586; 946068; 663739; 737798; 407984; 522664; 143406; 828437; 758691; 885855; 547072; 526974; 391157; 576895; 410905; 317131; 611833; 893669; 473189; 515295; 736432; 788640; 154985; 380835; 657077; 670237.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Polo winners

THE winners of our recent competition for one of five pairs of family tickets to 'Polo in the Castle' at Cardiff Castle on Sunday, June 27 are:

Jane Bissett, St Athan; Gary Martin, St Athan; Charlotte Pearson, Barry; Kenneth Thomas, Barry Island; and Georgia Morrison, Barry.

Congratulations to you all and have a great day!

Stamp winners

THE winners of a presentation pack of Britain Alone stamps are:

Ruby Harris, Barry; Claire Murphy, Rhoose; Lesley Jeffrey, Dinas Powys; Mrs Huish, Cowbridge; Margaret Price, Nottage; C Clancy, Wildmill; Mrs MJ Cassam, Barry; H Morgan, Laleston; Mrs M Beavan, North Cornelly; A Phillips, Penarth; EM Burbidge, Barry; C Spear, Penarth; LM Batton, Llantwit Major; C Williams, Cefn Glas; J Leho, Barry; Mrs T Robinson, Dinas Powys; LE Taylor, Cowbridge; Mrs P Williams, Nottage; Pat Good, Sully; Mr J Overy, Boverton.

Miss (and Mr) Wales contestants take outward bound test

CONTESTANTS in the forthcoming Miss Wales competition were a long way away from the beauty salon and hairdressers last weekend, when they visited Atlantic College to take on some outward bound challenges.

It was not just the girls either – as some of the boys in the 'Mr Wales' contest were learning the techniques of abseiling as well.

However, it is one thing learning the technique – it is quite another when it comes to taking that first step from the cliff edge!

The challenge was the idea of Courtenay Hamilton, who is this year's Miss Vale of Glamorgan.

Courtenay is familiar with the outward bound side of St Donats, as her father is a teacher at Atlantic College.

The final of Miss Wales takes place on June 26, and to register a vote for Miss Vale, either text Courtenay Hamilton to 81118, or visit the website www.misswales.co.uk/finalists

Miss Vale of Glamorgan, Courtenay Hamilton. PICTURE BY GLYN EVANS

Two of the 'Mr Wales' contestants, forced to share one rope!

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk
Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

NEW

SHADOWS CABARET BAR

BARRY ISLAND
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Forthcoming Events

Saturday 26th June
ATOMIC JONES
TOM JONES TRIBUTE
£10

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SOLD OUT
CHRIS DUPREE
£10

Saturday 31st July
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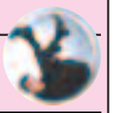

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LLANTWIT EARN BRAGGING RIGHTS WITH CUP VICTORY OVER OLD RIVALS

LLANTWIT Major Bowling Club's Munro Cup game last week was against local rivals Cowbridge.

This fixture is normally won by the home team – Cowbridge winning on their artificial green and Llantwit winning on grass – and this continued with Llantwit winning on their home patch, although Cowbridge gave them an early fright when they were up on three rinks before Llantwit got their heads together, resulting in a 78-53 shot win.

Graham Jones' rink had a runaway win, always in the lead, outclassing Cowbridge by a 21-shot margin.

Alan Gibbard's rink started slowly before overtaking Mike Bradley's rink to win by four shots.

Danny Ahearn's rink were 11-3 down against Roger Barwick's rink as it appeared that the green was to their liking. Llantwit hit back, scoring 16 shots to the opposition's three to win.

Charles Hiscock's rink had a tough battle and were always in arrears, losing eventually by five shots.

Rink scores: Graham Jones 32-11; Alan Gibbard 17-13; Danny Ahearne 19-14; Charles Hiscock 10-15.

Llantwit had a convincing win in their home league fixture against Bargoed, winning on all rinks to secure maximum points by 112-46 shots.

Graham Jones' rink finished off a successful week with another emphatic win, restricting the opposition to only five shots to win by a margin of 30 shots.

Danny Ahearn's rink ended their miserable run in the league with a superb performance by all four players.

Charles Hiscock's rink were behind at the start before coming good to win by 10 shots, while Alan Gibbard's rink won by the closest margin of five shots. They had the washing up duties, but nevertheless, it was still a good win.

Rink scores: Graham Jones 35-5; Danny Ahearne 33-11; Charles Hiscock 21-11; Alan Gibbard 23-19.

JY

Cowbridge ladies fly the tennis flag

THE men's team at Cowbridge Tennis Club had a top-of-the-table clash against Rhiwbina.

Cowbridge were looking to avenge their narrow loss earlier this season, but with two of his key players unavailable, captain Paul Arnold knew it would be another close game.

As feared, the teams finished with a 3–3 draw and once again a win for Rhiwbina, claiming the match 7–6 in sets. This now places the men second in their division behind Rhiwbina.

Team members were Hugh Wallace and Peter Booth, who won both their matches, Allan Duggan and Warren Davies (winning one) and Paul Wilby and Paul Arnold.

The Ladies second team were away to Barry where they also finished with a 3–3 draw but in this match they won 7–6 in sets.

Louise Hailstone and Nonie Hempson, Sian Thomas and Kathy Harwood-Morgan, Pat Thomas and Sarah Wallace all won one match each.

The ladies first team had a chance of a bigger victory and they didn't disappoint. They hosted a team from Dinas Powys and enjoyed a 5–1 win. Gill Ridout and Alison Kurobasa, Jenny Lord and Karen James, Tricia Jochem and Nonie Hempson all contributed to the result.

Captain Alison Kurobasa was particularly pleased with the performance of the ladies playing up from the second team. She said: "We had players unavailable this week and Tricia and Nonie played really well, highlighting the good level of ladies tennis at the club".

The team are joint top in their league with three matches left to play.

CADOXTON BOWLS REPORT

First team has pair of setbacks

THE Munro Cup match at Windsor brought a defeat on all four rinks – the scorecards were not available at time of going to press.

Cadoxton v Cymmer – CML3

Cadoxton took a weakened team to Cymmer, with seven players not available. The outcome was a narrow five-shot defeat, and just two points from one winning rink.

That rink was skipped by 'Nunky' Brown with the welcome return from university of grandson Ashley Brown, giving a pristine performance at lead. David Evans has settled into the rink to play his part with Andrew Hatcher as third in a combination which produced an outstanding 24-5 victory.

Kelvin Chedgzoy almost brought another success on his rink. After leading 7-2 after six ends, the advantage changed to 10-8 down after 12 ends. A '4' on the next retrieved the lead but two '3's against after two dead ends left them behind again.

Another '4' regained the lead with two ends left, but three shots against in the final two ends took away the points.

Don Kuhnell's rink went from 5-0 up to 5-15 down before a good recovery brought the deficit to just one at 14-15. However, this upsurge was ended when a '4' and '5' were conceded, to take away any chance of success.

The rink skipped by Gary Jones trailed from the start and only six winning ends were recorded, in their defeat.

H Hellyar, S Pycroft, J Davies, K Chedgzoy, 18-20; G Solomon, J Sugden, H Craven, D Kuhnell, 16-27; A Brown, D Evans, A Hatcher, G Brown, 24-5; D Tuck, A Carpenter, W Vaughan, G Jones, 10-21.

Final score: 68-73.

Cadoxton 'A' v Rumney 'A' – CML 6

The 'A' side hosted a game against Rumney 'A' and once again they got the better of their opposition, recording a substantial 30-shot success overall.

The main providers of this win were two rinks. One was skipped by Roy Harding, with assistance from Stan Clements, Ron Doble and Gordon 'the bus'. Four '3's a ''4' and a '5' were included in the 30 shots amassed.

The other one was skipped by Graham Garland, who had Steve Clarke, Vernon Bryant, and Ivor Robertson giving their support, and getting success on two-thirds of the ends.

John Stewart's rink could have been the third winners, but three losing final ends brought the scores level. Unfortunately, three '5's were conceded during the match skipped by Derek Brooks which was lost by eight shots.

R Knight, I Dunbar, L Little, J Stewart, 15-15;S Clarke, V Bryant, I Robertson, G Garland, 27-8; D Collard, K Tanner, M Curtis, D Brook 19-27; S Clements, R Doble, G Davies, R Harding, 30-11.

Final score: 91-61.

DK

BARRY ATHLETIC BOWLS CLUB

Conclusive wins for both first and second teams

BOTH Barry Athletic Private Greens teams registered good wins in their respective divisions last Saturday.

The First team came away from their PG1 fixture at Whitchurch with nine points in a 92-84 win, to maintain their good early season form.

Top rink honours, and the match winner, was skip Chris Blake, who recorded an impressive 28-18 success. His rink featured Dave Snelling, Bill Summerell and the consistent Ben Parrish, a new member to the club this season.

Glyn Thomas' rink looked set for victory when they led 27-21 going into the last end, but the Cardiff bowlers bagged a six to snatch an unexpected draw.

Skips Geoff Whittaker and Robert Horgan were involved in close encounters throughout and both went down by a single shot.

The Athletic's PG2 side earned another 12 points, beating Cardiff Sophia Gardens by 81-69 at Barry Island.

Skip Ivor Stevenson was top rink with a 22-11 scorecard, while Billy Wright's unchanged squad continue to excel and came in with a 22-16 score.

Gareth Humphreys rounded off the points winning performance, 17-15, in the closest game of the afternoon.

On Saturday, the Athletic first string open their Carruthers Shield knock-out stage against Gelligaer at Barry Island and the PG2 side travel to Aberdare Harlequins for a top-of-the-table clash.

Scores: Barry Athletic PG1 at Whitchurch – D Snelling, B Summerell, B Parrish, C Blake 28, Whitchurch 18.

J Beanland, G Gane, DK Williams, G Whittaker 19, Whitchurch 20.

S McKernan, C Spillane, K Harris, G Thomas 27, Whitchurch 27.

A Thomas, D Jones, C Wright, R Horgan 18, Whitchurch 19.

Barry Athletic PG2 v Cardiff Sophia Gardens – E Booker, D Coombs, G Green, B Wright 22, Sophia Gardens 16.

W Webber, J Jupp, A Mintern, D Newman 20, Sophia Gardens 27.

J Ball, A Pidduck, C Phillips, G Humphreys 17, Sophia Gardens 15.

J Morton, B Turner, J Horgan, I Stevenson 22, Sophia Gardens 11.

The Athletic midweek line-up won their third Munro Cup match, beating Rhoose by 88-54 at Barry Island last Wednesday night.

Skip Dave Snelling was in top form and led his rink to an overwhelming 33-6 score, while Geoff Whittaker's rink were 26-14 victors on what was a good night for mid week captain Alan Thomas' squad.

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Bisson regains squash title

JON BISSON regained his men's champion title in a hard fought match at Cowbridge Squash Club on Saturday night.

He managed to wrestle back the winners trophy from Nick Guard, who has had the upper hand for the last four years.

To add insult to injury, Guard and Julian Jenkins also lost the men's doubles title to the new partnership of Richard Ford and Simon Payne.

Presentations were made in the rugby club following the matches where club chairman Clive Prigg awarded two special commendations for their help in running the club to Mike Board, for his commitment to ensuring the insulation project of last winter was completed successfully, and to Nial Sloan, for his continued development of the junior section.

CP

Barry Central on form for vital victory

HAVING experienced a disappointing start to the club's involvement in the Cardiff and District division four, only picking up two points from previous two games, Barry Central entertained St Mellons at the Gladstone Garden Green on Saturday.

The game started after a minute's silence in respect of the death of the club's treasurer Roger Taylor, who sadly passed away the previous night. The thoughts of the committee and club members are with Pat and the family.

The home side produced a sterling display and after five ends were well in front. Later in the match, Ted Hudd's rink started to fall behind, resulting in a bad loss for Ted who had indicated halfway through the game that he was unwell.

As a result, his rink lost by 14 shots; the club wish Ted a speedy recovery.

All other rinks did very well, with Alan Davies' rink winning by four shots; Joe Bratcher's rink by 13.5 shots due the St Mellons team being only able to field three players; and John Jones' rink winning by 22.5 shots, again due to the fact that St Mellons were only able to field three players.

Praise must go to Graham Davies, who played lead on John Jones' rink and had an excellent game.

The results were as follows: A Davies 20, A Nichols 16; E Hudd 16, D Tyner 30; J Bratcher 24, F Ball 10.5; J Jones 25, J Faux 2.5.

Barry Central 85, St Mellons 59, Barry Central 12, St Mellons 2.

Too close to call as mid-week league heats up

WITH the league still being blessed by fine weather, the halfway stage of the season sees three teams unbeaten and all are good bets for the title.

Barry Internationals lead and crushed Barry Athletic at the Island by 127 runs. Mudassar enjoyed a fine game scoring 68 and taking 3 for 7 as Athletic slumped to 59 all out when chasing 187 to win. Saleh also scored 67, and Jhanzaib took 3 for 8 as the Internationals took the points.

Level on points at the top, Llantwit Cavaliers travelled to Cardiff and Julian Griffiths' fine form continued. Top scoring with an unbeaten 63 and well supported by veteran Shane Callard's 34, the Cavs scored a useful 145 for 3.

Harry's 63 gave Cardiff some hope, but they failed by 20 runs as Griffiths, with 3 for 17, and Jamie Snelson's 3 for 25 dismissed the supporting batsmen.

While the top two jockey for position, 2009 champions Lisvane are moving ominously into position. Now unbeaten in five, Lisvane ran up 187 for 4 against Pencoed. Eswar Krisnamurthy top-scored with 88 and the visitors were restricted to 104 for 4, Rob Bowen taking 3 for 11 and Richard Gregory top-scoring with 41 not out.

Penarth played twice last week, and after losing out to Cogan Chiefs by eight wickets (M Stevens scoring 51 for the Chiefs), the Seasiders defeated Tynewydd by seven wickets.

Their target was a very modest 77, Rob Lancashire having wrought havoc with the inexperienced batsmen to return the season's best analysis of 6 for 22.

West End's Chris Davies ripped out the Dinas batting to take 5 for 3 from three overs in their game. West End scored 126 for 7, James Thomas scoring 25 and Dani Zaman also bowling well to see his spin rewarded with 4 for 7.

Dinas, though, could not cope with Davies, and despite Andy Ford's 34, they slipped to a 21-run defeat.

Barry Wanderers moved into fourth place with a 44 run win against Llantwit Colts. Aled Hughes scored 75 in a total of 151 for 8 before the Colts were bowled out for 107.

Sam Pickford top-scored with 47 while skipper Andy Fenton returned figures of 3 for 4.

Finally, after waiting almost two months for a win, Creigiau produced a second in a row. Fontygary scored 116 for 8, N.Jones hitting 31 and the visitors knocked their target of in just 12 overs, D.Williams with 36 and Tom Lloyd with 34 doing the damage.

	P	W	L	Pts
Barry Internationals	7	7	0	14
Llantwit Cavaliers	7	7	0	14
Lisvane	5	5	0	10
Barry Wanderers	7	4	3	8
Cogan Chiefs	6	4	2	8
Barry Athletic	6	4	2	8
Penarth	8	4	4	8
Cardiff	6	3	3	6
Barry West End	7	3	4	6
Dinas Powys	7	2	5	4
Pencoed	7	2	5	4
Creigiau	7	2	5	4
Fontygary	6	1	5	2
Llantwit Cavaliers Colts	6	1	5	2
Tynewydd Inn	6	0	6	0

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

Latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, June 8: **1st** Mike Close and Denis Mottram 61.46 per cent; **2nd** Mark Roderick and Mike Best 60.94; **3rd** Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas 56.25.

Tom and Dave won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

CARDIFF AND THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS CROSS-COUNTRY PRESENTATION EVENING, YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Report: PETER MORRIS
Photographs: IAN DIXON

BETHAN DAW was the only Vale pupil to receive a major award at the end-of season Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' Cross-Country presentation evening, held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

The year-11 pupil at St Cyres enjoyed a very successful winter, winning two of the three Cardiff & the Vale Schools' league races to take her age group points title. To that, she added the under-17 championship title, and then led the Cardiff & the Vale middle team to second place at the Aviva Welsh Schools' National cross-country title at Brecon at the end of February.

Her performance at Brecon gained her a first Welsh Schools' international vest at the Aviva SIAB cross-country match, hosted by English Schools at Truro in Cornwall.

Bethan was awarded the Stanwell Old Girls Cup as the outstanding Cardiff & the Vale girl, and Mr John Penny, the president of Welsh Athletics, was on hand to make the presentation.

Awards were made to individuals and teams for performances in the three fixture league programme, the championships held in January and February 2010 at Trelai. In addition, all the pupils who represented the Cardiff & the Vale district at Brecon on February 27 were presented with a district colours medals, while athletes who gained representative honours for Welsh Schools received an award to recognise their achievement.

In the league section, both Bethan Daw (under-19) and Megan Osborne (Llantwit, under-14) received the leading points certificates, while Cowbridge, Bro Morgannwg and Llantwit received certificates for finishing teams in the top three positions.

Three Vale pupils – Owen Haswell (Stanwell, under-20), Bethan Daw and Megan Osborne – won championship titles, with the Cowbridge girls completing a league and championships double in the year-7 section.

Members of the Senior Boys team which finished third at the Aviva Welsh Schools' championships in February. Left to right: Darran Jones (Llantwit), Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg), Owen Haswell (Stanwell) and Ieuan Donovan (Bro Morgannwg).

Junior girls who won the team competition at the Aviva Welsh Schools championships in February. Back row: Annabel Curle (Cowbridge), Angharad Cole (Radyr), Megan Osborne and Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit). Front row: Betsan Jenkins (Plasmawr), Abigail Frayling and Kate Seary (Whitchurch).

Nadine James and Rebecca Thomas from Cowbridge – winners of the year-7 league and championships.

Bethan Daw (St Cyres) receives the Stanwell Old Girls Cup (for the outstanding girl cross-country runner) from the president of Welsh Athletics, Mr John Penny.

Thirty Vale pupils received district colours medals while four pupils – Bethan Daw, Owen Haswell, Megan Osborne and Caitlin Bryant – received international awards.

In his closing remarks, chairman Rob Glaves thanked a number of groups, who had contributed to the association's programme. Included in his list were the headteacher, governing body and the PE staff at Bro Morgannwg for allowing the use of the facilities and organising the presentation, the Vale Council for its grant, the Vale newspapers for coverage of the association's activities, the pupils, who took part in the association's activities, their parents, and two individuals who have made special contributions, Mr Ted Nicholson (first aid) and Mr Ian Dixon (photography).

Awards made to Vale pupils at the presentation: LEAGUE AWARDS: Year-7 Girls - under-12; Team: 1 Cowbridge 72.

Years 8 and 9 Girls - under-14: Points: Megan Osborne (Llantwit) 421; Team: 3 Cowbridge 67.

Years 10 to 14 Girls – under-19: Points: Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 215; Team: 2 Cowbridge 57.

Year-7 Boys - under-12: Team: 3 Cowbridge 64.

Years 8 and 9 Boys - under-14: Team: 3 YG Bro Morgannwg 66.

Years 10 to 14 Boys - under-19: Team: 2 YG Bro Morgannwg 58; 3 Llantwit 49.

CHAMPIONSHIP INDIVIDUAL and TEAM AWARDS: Boys' Championships held at Trelai Park on January 26: Years 10 to 14 – under-20: 1st Owen Haswell Stanwell; 2nd Darren Jones Llantwit; Team: 3rd – Bro Morgannwg 61 (5th Rory Heslop; 15th Dominic Farr; 16th Rhys George; 25th Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight).

Girls' Championships held at Trelai Park on February 9: Year-7 – under-13: 3rd Rebecca Thomas Cowbridge; Team: 1st – Cowbridge 40 (3rd Rebecca Thomas; 6th Nadine James; 15th Ellie Bishop; 16th Alice Tudor).

Years 8 and 9 – under-15: 1st Megan Osborne Llantwit; 2nd Kate Coker Stanwell.

Years 10 to 14 – under-20 – under-17: 1st Bethan Daw St Cyres; under-20: 2nd Elspeth Bisson Cowbridge; 3rd Holly Preece Cowbridge; Team: 2nd – Cowbridge 62 (7th Fiona Bray; 16th Rachel Bradshaw; 17th Katie Wynne; 22nd Elspeth Bisson); B Team 1st Cowbridge B 126 (26th Holly Preece; 30th Lucy Williams; 34th Georgina Kemeys; 36th Rosie Dent).

AWARD OF DISTRICT CROSS-COUNTRY COLOURS to athletes who competed at the Aviva 48th Welsh Schools' National Championships at Brecon on February 27: Senior Girls under-20; Team – 2nd 141; Sabrina James Cowbridge 28th.

Middle Girls under-17; Team – 2nd 85; Bethan Daw St Cyres 7th; Caitlin Bryant The Cathedral 9th; Fiona Bray Cowbridge 23rd; Danielle Green St Richard Gwyn 25th; Eloise Laity Westbourne 38th.

Junior Girls under-15: Team – 1st 80; Megan Osborne Llantwit Major 2nd; Kate Coker Stanwell 18th; Erin Hayes Llantwit 28th; Annabel Curle Cowbridge 34th; Lucy Tarrant Llantwit 48th.

Year-7 Girls under-13; Team – 2nd 129; Nadine James Cowbridge 25th; Rebecca Thomas Cowbridge 26th; Ana Mirza-Davies Stanwell 31st; Poppy Davies Howells 60th.

Senior Boys under-20; Team – 3rd 111; Owen Haswell Stanwell 5th; Darren Jones Llantwit 14th; Dominic Farr Bro Morgannwg 23rd; Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight Bro Morgannwg 38th; William Elliot Cowbridge 43rd; Ieuan Donovan Bro Morgannwg 49th.

Middle Boys under-17; Team – 1st 86; Rory Heslop Bro Morgannwg 12th; Daniel Lewis St Cyres 26th; Rhys George Bro Morgannwg 36th; Callam Barrie Barry 46th.

Junior Boys under-15; Team – 3rd 107; Dafydd George Bro Morgannwg 37th.

Year-7 Boys under-13; Team – 2nd 87; Elliot Morris-Devred Barry 21st; Tom Lucas Cowbridge 26th; Ellis Rosser Cowbridge 31st; Richard Dangerfield Llantwit 55th.

ATHLETES WHO GAINED INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

For Welsh Schools against Welsh Athletics at Mansfield on 27/03/2010 under-20 Boys Owen Haswell Stanwell – (b) For Welsh Schools at the SIAB International at Truro on 27/03/2010 – under-17 Girls Bethan Daw St Cyres 21st; under-15 Girls Megan Osborne Llantwit 26th.

(c) For Welsh Schools at the Mini London Marathon on 25/04/2010 under-15 Girls Megan Osborne Llantwit 48th 19:45; under-15 Girls Caitlin Bryant The Cathedral 67th 21:03.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Stanwell Old Girl Cup for the outstanding girl – Bethan Daw (St

YMCA's youngsters do Wales proud in British competition

BARRY YMCA youngsters Kiera Brennan (13) and Morgan Horne (12) recently had an eventful visit to England to compete at the British Espoires Gymnastics Championships.

This competition is only open to the best 12 and 13-year-old gymnasts from across GB, so the Barry YMCA gymnastics club members have been working hard to achieve the required skills over the past few months at the Welsh Gymnastics Academy, where they are trained by the Welsh National squad coach.

Both gymnasts attended podium training on Friday night, prior to the competition on Saturday to get used to the equipment.

Unfortunately, Kiera hurt her toe during this training, which meant that she had to withdraw from three of the five apparatus.

This did not dampen her enthusiasm for competing on the remaining two apparatus of conditioning set and bars.

She demonstrated excellent determination on the bars to win the silver medal, placing second in GB, narrowly missing out on the gold by 0.1.

Morgan has been learning a number of new skills over the past few months, which she showcased at this event.

She showed great poise and despite a few falls, she still had a good competition, placing 26th overall in GB in her first year in this age group.

Her best performance was on conditioning set, where she placed 14th in GB. Congratulations to both Keira and Morgan.

KAREN DAVIES

ABOVE: Kiera Brennan and Morgan Horne.

Young Elis plays chess for Wales

COWBRIDGE chess player Elis Bird, recently represented Wales under-10s against England at Monmouth.

Although the Wales team lost the encounter, it represented a high point of a successful year for Elis, who learned the game and is coached at The Cathedral School in Llandaff, where he is a pupil.

Elis has one major challenge to fulfil in July when he travels to Manchester for the British Land Gigafinal, having been one of seven children to qualify from Wales.

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COWBRIDGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
Cowbridge Rugby Club are looking to recruit new players for the forthcoming season.
The club currently runs two senior sides, together with youth and ladies teams.
We encourage players of all standards and are keen to welcome every potential player, both new and old.
We meet at the club house on Thursday evenings from 7pm or for more information please call Dai Breed on 07896 997016

St David's fete is blessed by lovely sunshine!

PHOTOS by KEITH E MORGAN

ST DAVID'S Church, Nottage, held its summer fête on Saturday, June 12 – a glorious sunny day.

The fete was opened by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, and it is believed that it was the first time that a Mayor of Porthcawl had attended and opened a fete at St David's.

As these pictures show, the Mayor of Porthcawl was kept very busy chatting to the stallholders (and sampling their wares!) at the church summer fete in Nottage.

Free health 'MOT' for Fido!

OWNERS are invited to bring their canine companions along to PDSA'S PetCheck vehicle on July 7 to 11 for a free dog health check.

The PDSA PetCheck vehicle will be at the following locations:

July 7 – Youth Works Building parking area, Caerau Park, Maesteg – 10am to 5pm.

July 8 – Woodland Close Garages parking area, Heol Alfyn, Bettws – 10am to 5pm.

July 9 – Ynysteg parking area, Heol y bont, Ynysawdre – 10am to 5pm.

July 10 – Westward Community Centre car park, Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas – 10am to 5pm.

July 11 – Shop parking area, Min y Nant, Pencoed – 10am to 4pm.

An on-board veterinary nurse will examine the weight, body shape, teeth, eyes, coat and general fitness of dogs, and will offer free advice on other companion animals.

(Left-Right) National Director Dai Williams, Janice Gregory AM, Julie Lewis and her daughter Emma Lewis shout down the myths about diabetes.

AM helps expose myths of diabetes

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory helped Diabetes UK Cymru to expose myths about the condition at an event in the Welsh Assembly to mark Diabetes Week.

She attended the event with the charity in the Senedd where she met Emma Lewis (10), who has Type 1 diabetes, and her parents Julie and Ian, from Llanharan, and talked about their experiences of living with diabetes.

Mrs Gregory said she had learned more about diabetes myths.

Dai Williams, National Director of Diabetes UK Cymru, said: "We were delighted that Janice Gregory attended this event to mark Diabetes Week and highlight the myths that still remain about diabetes.

"With more and more people diagnosed with the condition every day in Wales, it is essential that we raise awareness of these misconceptions and diabetes itself.

"Too often we hear the myths that Type 2 diabetes is not as serious as Type 1, that eating too much sugar causes diabetes and that people with diabetes can't enjoy doing sports.

"Diabetes Week and this event give us the perfect opportunity to stamp out these myths for good in Wales and we would like to thank Janice Gregory AM for helping us to spread the word."

Mrs Gregory said: "I was delighted to be able to attend this Diabetes UK Cymru event in recognition of Diabetes Week across the UK.

"As more than 19,600 people in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend County Borough are now diagnosed with the condition, and a further 3,800 are estimated to have it without knowing, we need to dispel the common myths about diabetes to help people better understand the condition.

For further information about diabetes, contact Diabetes UK Cymru on 029 2066 8276, email wales@diabetes.org.uk or visit www.diabetes.org.uk/wales. You can also get in touch with the charity on Facebook and Twitter.

Golden gloves and golden boots at awards ceremony

Corneli Primary School are awarded the Premiership Trophy for the third successive season.

THE Bridgend Schools football Association (BSFA) held their annual awards evening on Friday, June 18 in Bridgend Recreation Centre, with several schools celebrating success.

Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger had a great season, collecting the BSFA Challenge Plate after a 5-2 victory over Pil Primary School, while newcomers Llangewydd Junior School claimed the BSFA Championship Trophy at their first attempt.

Coach Anthony Morrison said:

"We at Llangewydd are delighted to have won this trophy at our first attempt and are really looking forward to challenging the teams in the Premiership next season!"

Nottage Primary won the BSFA Challenge Cup this season and they were presented with the trophy by Madeleine Moon, MP. They beat Corneli Primary on penalties. Nottage coach Iain Ashton said he was delighted with the success: "We have had a great season at Nottage and have had some fantastic games against Corneli.

"To win the cup this season is a tremendous achievement and I am very pleased with my players."

Nottage Primary and Corneli Primary were the big challengers in the Premiership, with Corneli Primary School edging Nottage out at the end.

Nottage ended Corneli's three-year unbeaten run with a 2-1 win at Nottage, while Corneli countered with a 4-0 victory at Corneli.

Coach Alex Clarke said: "Beating Nottage was a particular highlight and one game that really set us on our way to win the league.

"Winning the Premiership for a third successive season is a great achievement and one that makes me very proud of my squad of players."

In the individual awards, Kyle Thomas (Corneli) was crowned the best goalkeeper – conceding just three goals all season and he collected the 'Golden Glove' from Mrs Moon.

Bradley Clarke (Nottage) had the honour of winning the coveted Golden Boot, after scoring 23 goals.

Madeleine Moon awards Kyle thomas (Corneli) the Golden Glove award.

Madeleine Moon MP awards Nathan Godwin the overall player of the season award.

Nathan Godwin (Corneli) was on top of the world after claiming the 'Overall Player of the Season' award.

Nathan has had a fantastic season playing on the left wing for Corneli Primary and has contributed 20 goals, including the two for Corneli in the BSFA Challenge Cup Final.

The awards evening ended with Mrs Moon saying a few words, and she congratulated the association on their season:

"You can see so many children with smiles on their faces here tonight, they clearly have had a lot of fun playing this year, so congratulations to the Bridgend Schools Football Association for all their hard work."

The Blue Bulls cut loose against Newport Titans

Bridgend Blue Bulls 58 Newport Titans 16

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls recovered from their recent heavy defeat to Valley Cougars with a 58-16 victory over Newport Titans.

Blue Bulls stand-off Gareth David, playing his first game for the side in two years, ran the show in the first half scoring a hat-trick. His first came in the first minute after a break from Lee Sims. He converted it himself.

Cameron Shannon came close to claiming a second minutes later before Shaun Owens went over in the corner after a 60-metre run from Daniel Smith.

Smith was involved in Bridgend's third when he crashed through the Newport defence, giving an excellent offload to Chris McGrath, with the wing showing good speed before passing to his captain Craig Fox who slid under the posts. David again converted to make it 16-0.

Titans then hit back when Ross Palmer took advantage of some Blue Bulls indiscipline, quickly taking a penalty to send wing Daniel Esposito over.

But Blue Bulls then finished strongly with David crossing twice, the first after some good play from Nathan Hawkins, before Matthew Morgan barged over late on, adding all three kicks to make it 34-4 at half time.

Bridgend continued their good form at the start of the second half when Lloyd O'Connor won the re-start and passed to Sean Haren.

The second row then handed off three tacklers to score, with Gareth Howells converting before scoring himself after a fine run from debutant Jordon Skidmore.

Newport then started to find some good form and Dragonhearts forward John Griffiths scored after an Esposito break, then Sam Wilkins raced over. Griffiths looked to have scored a second but he was held up over the line by James Elton, and then Craig Fox grabbed his second for the Bulls with Howells again converting.

Griffiths claimed his second before Blue Bulls finished with a flourish, with Nathan Strong crossing twice in the dying seconds.

SIMON GREEN

WE'RE ONLINE!
You can now read your GEM online at: www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

NORTH – SOUTH TANDEM RIDE IS A HUGE SUCCESS

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE:
A cheque for £1,684 being presented to Stacey Brewster of Ty Hafan by Sue Jenkins and Carolyne Tranter.

A HUSBAND and wife team from Porthcawl have completed a marathon charity ride from north to south Wales – on their own bicycle built for two.

Andrew and Susan Jenkins of Austin Close, Newton, Porthcawl, are both keen cyclists, they bought their tandem last year.

Once they got to grips with the technique of riding in tandem, Andrew, an occupational hygienist at Corus plc Port Talbot works, and Susan, who works in Barclays Bank, Porthcawl, decided to take on a charity challenge for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

To raise funds, Andrew and Susan cycled through Wales from Connah's Quay to Porthcawl. The tandem was shipped to Corus' Shotton Works at Queensferry beforehand and was picked up there.

The five-day trip was made up as follows:

Day one – Shotton Works Connah's Quay, Chester via cycle route five and then to Bangor-on-Dee.

Day two – Bangor-on-Dee to Berriew (between Welshpool and Newtown).

Day three – Berriew to Rhayadar.

Day four – A loop of the Elan Valley Reservoir Trail, then Rhayadar to Brecon

Day five – Brecon to Porthcawl via the Taff Trail.

Andrew and Susan were given a send-off from Brecon by the Mayor of Brecon, Coun David Meredith and welcomed back to Porthcawl by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.

The first £750 raised was matched by Barclays Bank, and the grand total was £1,684. A cheque for this amount was presented by Susan Jenkins and Caroline Tranter of Barclays Bank to Stacey Brewster of Ty Hafan.

Barclays customers were encouraged to guess the final mileage covered by the pair with the prize for the nearest correct entry being a football signed by Swansea City players.

The mileage covered was recorded as 226.89 miles, with the winner being Mrs. Michele Jenkins (not related to Andrew or Susan), with an almost spot-on guess of 225 miles.

ABOVE (left to right): Caroline Tranter, manager, Barclays Bank Porthcawl, Mrs Michele Jenkins, who won the signed football, Sue Jenkins, and Mr Stephen Jenkins.

Taking a break at Tal y Bont, Brecon.

A lovely time, the day they went to Bangor..!

ABOVE: Welcome committee at Barclays Bank, led by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find caring new owners for five animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(TELEPHONE: 01656 725219)***

Five 'adorable' pups all looking for a home

ABOVE: Wombat, Wallace, Willow, Wendy and Wanda.

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are currently caring for five "adorable" Jack Russell Terrier cross puppies.

The cuties were sadly orphaned when their mother was hit by a car and they were taken to the rehoming centre for expert care.

The pups – two boys and three girls – are called *Wombat*, *Wallace*, *Willow*, *Wendy* and *Wanda*. They are aged just five weeks and staff are keen to line up homes, ready for when they are old enough to leave the centre – hopefully in the next few weeks.

Dogs Trust Bridgend manager Beverley Price said: "These puppies really are a bundle of joy! Our team are dedicating every spare minute to caring for them and have set up a special nursery.

"We usually look to rehome pups when they're between six and eight weeks old, but as these are a special case, we will be monitoring their progress and only doing so when they're ready.

"Prospective owners are welcome to visit the rehoming centre and our team will discuss the pup's needs further."

Anyone interested in rehoming one of the pups, or any other of the canine residents, should call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725214.

Anti-social tenant evicted from home

A woman from Cefn Glas, Bridgend was evicted from her property after complaints of excess noise, anti-social behaviour and intimidation.

The Safer Bridgend Partners worked with complaining residents to secure an order for the eviction of Alisha Llewellyn-John at Bridgend Magistrates Court last week.

John Davies, the community safety co-ordinator, said: "I am so pleased partners have been able to secure this order on behalf of residents who have suffered unacceptable levels of behaviour from the tenants at this address."

A win for Crusaders under-15s over 'Quins

CRUSADERS 18
HARLEQUINS 14

by IAN GOLDEN

IN their final game of the season, Crusaders under-15s completed the double against Harlequins, in a fiery encounter which saw them win through 18-14.

However, their victory was deflated following a serious injury to Quins' Jordan Hedasun in the final play of the game. The prop fell awkwardly in the tackle and had to be taken to hospital with a suspected broken ankle. Everyone wishes him all the best in his recovery as he looked to be in a lot of pain.

In a thriller, where both sides gave 100 per cent, it was the home side that took an early lead with a Garyn Smith try after just two minutes converted by Casey Hurley.

Quins were close to an equalising try but a poor kick from Luke Edwards went straight over the dead-ball line.

On 12 minutes, Lloyd Paget stormed through for Crusaders' second to put them 10-0 up.

Quins fought back to level the scores by 25 minutes. First Joel Hicks exposed a gap in the home defence to run through following Lawrence Chittil's pass then, following more intense pressure, Luke Edwards also grounded. The first try was converted by Charlie Lawrence.

However, Crusaders went into half-time four points to the good when Studart went over in the corner after a great passing move involving Paget and Elliot Keep.

There were just two tries in the second half, one to each side, but it was full of action.

Crusaders' try came halfway through the half when, after a good break from Tom Evans, Austin Hewitt scored in the corner. Quins brought the score back to 18-14 with just five minutes remaining when Sam Hewitt also scored in the corner after Jordan Harris, Tom Coyd and Pete Marshall were all close.

There were a number of attempts for other scores. Both teams were pushed into touch on more than one occasion, sparking great celebrations when a scrum was won, especially from the visitors.

Jordan Cranton came close to a further Crusaders' try, but was held up over the line, while Luke Edwards had a last minute attempt ruled out for a forward pass.

But in the end it was the young Crusaders who were worthy winners, showing that the future of rugby league is safe in Wales.

***CRUSADERS**: 1. Elliot Keep; 2. Austin Hewitt; 3. Rhys Pugsley; 4. Taran Studart; 5. Carwyn Chamberlain; 6. Lloyd Paget; 7. Kasey Hurley; 8. Tom Evans; 9. Connor Farrer; 10. Darius Wheatle; 11. Garyn Smith; 12. Liam Brown; 13. Jordan Cranton. Subs 14. Ryan Davies; 15. Chris Bowler; 16. Brad Jones.*

Country park festival attracts 1,000+ visitors

MORE than 1,000 people attended the recent Bryngarw Festival in the council-run Bryngarw Country Park, which was a week-long celebration of culture and nature from Tuesday, June 8 – Saturday, June 12.

A council spokeswoman said: "In celebration of National Biodiversity Week, the varied programme of events and activities had something for everyone, from opera and Celtic folk, to live theatre and puppetry; from mini-beast hunts and nature rambles for school children, to the fantastic 'Slice of Alice' performed by the talented Bridgend Youth Theatre Berwyn Centre groups."

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development, the festival was set in a marquee within the beautiful surroundings of the country park.

Ceri Evans, principal officer for arts and community development, said: "It was great to see such a diverse range of people coming to the festival. Our youngest attender was just 20 months with the oldest being well in to their 90s.

"Bryngarw Country Park provides a magnificent setting for a festival of this kind and we are delighted that local people and visitors to the area came out to support us."

The sun shines on Maeteg Hospital Fete, and everyone comes out to have a grand old time!

ORGANISERS of the Maesteg Hospital Fete, one of the town's best-loved events, are confident that it will, once again give the hospital finances a boost.

The vice-chairman, Gwyn Howells, told The GEM: "We think it could be a record for recent years, and the fact that the sun came out clearly made a big difference."

He said that the fete was unlikely to return to the old days, when it was a massive occasion.

He added: "Times are different now, but we hope that an influx of younger people on the committee will help the fete develop and grow."

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

More Maesteg Hospital Fete

ABOVE and BELOW:
Everyone enjoyed the sunshine at Maesteg Hospital Fete.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bryneithin fundraiser

FRIENDS of Bryneithin are holding a table top sale at Murch Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, on Saturday, June 26 at 2pm-4.30pm.

Admission free: raffle, refreshments.

Cost per table £5. To book a table, telephone Mrs Sylvia Bowen on 01446 407860. Table holders to arrive from 1.15pm.

Bryngarw walkers

WALKERS are invited on a walk around Bryngarw Country Park in Brynmenyn, Bridgend, from 11am-12.30pm on Sunday, June 27, to learn about its natural history and beauty during the summer season.

Park rangers will guide walkers and show interesting features such as secluded meadows, gardens and many of the park's native plants and trees, including meadow orchids. The rangers will discuss, in particular, the biodiversity value of many of the wild flowers and trees along the way.

Admission is free and the car park is £2.

News in and out of the classroom from Litchard Primary School

School arts week gives pupils an exciting time

ARTS WEEK

WE had a very busy week in school with lots of exciting activities for our school arts week.

We had a medieval re-enactment day where the children learned all about life in medieval times.

The children had a writing workshop with Mr Ken Harris and there was a visit from the Kinetic theatre.

To finish off the week, the children were treated to an afternoon concert by Welsh folk group Mabon, and it was lovely to see the children up dancing and really enjoying the music.

BOTTLES REQUIRED

URGENT request! Please could parents save any clear plastic two litre bottles as we are constructing a greenhouse made entirely of plastic bottles.

If possible could you rinse out the bottles and remove the labels?

We would also appreciate some adult volunteers to help with cutting the bottles, if anyone has a spare hour or two.

Mrs Matthews will inform the children when the volunteers are needed. Thank you.

TAG RUGBY CUP

ON Sunday, June 13, a group of year-5 and 6 pupils took part in the Welsh rugby league primary schools cup tag rugby competition.

They progressed to the semi-final at the Gnoll rugby ground, Neath. Well done to everyone who competed and to the staff and parents who attended and supplied lifts.

The children who took part were: Ryan Kershaw, Beth Keagle, Connor Mantell, Blethyn Webster, Dylan Harvie, Sygornie John, Danny James, Harry Hopkins, Brandon Pugh and Jac Talbot.

ROAD SAFETY QUIZ

ON Friday June 11, a team of year-5 boys represented the school in the road safety quiz at the Odeon.

They were unsuccessful in winning but took part in a very difficult competition.

Llangewydd were the Bridgend champions out of the 14 finalists. A big thank you to the parents of Matthew Biggs (5C), Lewys Biggs, Dafydd Thomas and Harry Hopkins (5M) for their support.

SMILE 2010

ON Thursday, May 27, Litchard Primary took part in a recycling competition.

There were three tasks: to design a T-shirt encouraging recycling, to compose a recycling song and to create a recycling video og with an emphasis on becoming a 'Recycle Ranger'.

The winner of the T-shirt competition was Iestyn Thomas of 4F, who was presented with a T-shirt with his design printed on it.

A selection of year-2, 5 and 6 students took part in composing the song in Welsh and English.

Some of the year-5 and 6 students took on the challenge of creating a video. We competed against three other schools.

All of the hard work paid off as we were the proud winners of this year's Smile 2010 competition, winning £300 and a trophy for the school.

Thank you to Claire George and the Bridgend College IT students for organizing the event.

WELL DONE GIRLS!

CONGRATULATIONS to Ellie Butcher (6R) and Abbie Davies (6S) for competing at the Welsh Open Aerobic Championships in Cardiff recently.

Both girls performed their routines brilliantly, with Ellie achieving fifth place in the FIG category open competition and third place in the closed section, and Abbie finishing in second place in the NAC closed section.

GOOD LUCK BETH

GOOD luck to Beth Keagle (6H) for her Grade 1 theory piano exam and to Abigail Linforth (4H) for her Grade 2 theory exam, which they are taking in the next fortnight.

Well done to Elliot Davies (TM), who recently achieved his Goldfish 2 certificate in swimming!

SENEDD VISIT

AS part of this term topic 'Comparing Cardiff Bay to Snowdonia," the children of year-5 visited the Senedd recently.

On arriving they were greeted by Mr Richard Jones, who gave the history of the Senedd and answered questions.

They went through the security control before meeting the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Mr Keith Towler.

Mr Towler was able to tell us a little bit about his work and even offered to visit our school! We then had a ride across Cardiff Bay on the water bus (and an ice cream) before completing a survey on people's opinions of Cardiff Bay.

It was a very enjoyable day and we have already booked for next year!

POND DIPPING

YEAR-3 children visited the Sony Environmental centre at Pencoed, and had a fun morning pond dipping and examining the insects and mini-beasts that they discovered in the pond.

We even managed to catch a few frogs and saw a family of very young ducklings hiding in the reeds!

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Kershaw on achieving a BA (Hons) degree in educational studies and early childhood studies. All the long hours and hard work have really been worth it!

Congratulations also to Mrs. Helen Cook on becoming a grandmother for the first time.

VOUCHERS WANTED

DOES anyone have any more Tesco or Sainsbury vouchers hidden away anywhere? We would like to put our order for equipment in and we are just 50 vouchers short. Please check purses, wallets, cars. Thank you!

INFANT AND EARLY YEARS – NURSERY GYMNASTIC MEDALS

CONGRATULATIONS to Grace Thompson, Ella Matthews and Milly Bayliss on winning medals for gymnastics at the Bridgend Recreation Centre recently.

Well done to Leo Manley on achieving four medals for gymnastics! He received first place in the trampette, third place for springboard, a most determined medal and a gold star medal for attendance. What a star!

SUPER SWIMMERS

CONGRATULATIONS to Ioan Pett and Maddison Edwards on receiving their Duckling Grade 1 and 2 swimming awards recently.

INFANTS RUGBY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Cerys Thomas, Will Watkins and Ryan Neagle all from (2P) who received trophies for playing, training and attending this season with Tondu RFC under-8s.

Ellis Penman (2P) received a medal for an outstanding season of rugby at Bridgend Athletic. Dai awn ti!

Louis Edwards (2P) had a medal at the Penyfai presentation for training, attendance and playing this season.

Louis also played at the Bryntirion tournament taking part in six games. Pen-y-fai had an excellent result as they won five of the games.

Euan Rees (2H), was awarded player of the year for Bridgend Athletic RFC at under-7's.

He is now moving up to the under-8s. He also received a trophy for his commitment to the club.

FOOTBALL

LIAM Kilburn (2H) represented Pen-y-fai FC in Bridgend Town's football tournament at the Brewery Field.

Liam and Dafydd Pett were both presented with a trophy for representing Pen-y-fai FC this season.

Luke Florence (1G) played for Bridgend Town last Saturday and received a trophy for his skills.

TOP DOG

CAITLIN Birmingham (2H) took her dog to a dog show recently and won 'Best in Show', first prize for 'Best Six Legs' and second prize for 'Dog that looks most like it's owner'!

RECYCLING WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to George Burgess (1M) and Morgan Jones (4F) who won the Gregory Brothers Road Show recycling competition, and were invited to the Mayor's Parlour to receive their prize.

SWIMMING AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to Ailish O'Sullivan (2P) on achieving her Stage 3 swimming award.

Rubi Lewis (1G) received her 10m Backstroke Rainbow award; Declan Waagenes (1M) achieved his National Plan award Stage 1; Jac Biggs achieved his National Plan award Stage 1 and Duckling awards 3 and 4. Dafydd Pett (2H) has been awarded his 10m Backstroke Distance award.

GYMNASTIC AWARDS

LAUREN Webster (1G) had a gold medal for gymnastics recently. Congratulations also to Katie Tresize (1G) who won a medal for gymnastics last weekend.

Kieran Chalmers (2H) has achieved a merit in the Welsh Gymnastics A-Z foundation award at Bronze level. He also recently won best boy gymnast (7-9 years) at a gymnastics competition in Bridgend.

During a presentation evening, Kieran was awarded a trophy for his commitment to Tondu RFC this season.

Tom Matthews (2H) won a medal in a gymnastic competition at the Recreation centre recently.

Tom reported: "I had to do a complicated routine".

Alexandra Longmire (2H) took part in a gymnastic competition where she received a first for tumble, first for the trampette and a first for her bar work. She also received another medal for taking part.

Well done to Lewys Hall (2H) for playing piano in assembly recently. His piano playing is really developing well and he practices every day!

A very big well done to the following children from Mrs Parslows class: Ethan Bromley who plays for Bridgend town, for attending soccer school at Pencoed Comprehensive; Eve Davies for receiving a 'Goody Goody' diploma for completing a race going through objects while on holiday in Menorca; Jessica Hearse for being the most improved gymnast at Wildmill Community Centre, and finally, to Louis Edwards for playing seven games in a tournament for Maesteg Park AFC.

MUMBLES VISIT

YEAR-1 had a fantastic day in Mumbles before half term. Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Brookes had to wear the RNLI dry suit, life jacket and hat and the children enjoyed spraying them with the hose!

THANK YOU

HUGE thanks to Mrs Pope and Mrs Brookes for all their hard work in developing the KS1 garden.

We would like to thank everyone who sent in plant donations and we appreciate your co-operation while we continue to develop the outdoor classroom.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A VERY happy 40th birthday to Mrs Brookes from all the staff and children!

BEST WISHES

THE governors, staff and children would like to send our best wishes to reception teacher Mrs Trahar who is on maternity leave. We look forward to hearing some good news very soon!

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Closing date: 2nd July 2010.

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Family Notices

Peter Cambridge

Peacefully at the Marie Curie Hospice Penarth on June 15th 2010. Loving husband of Sheila, father to John, Andrew and David, and grandfather to Thomas and Isobel. A cremation will take place on the 28th June at Coychurch Crematorium, near Bridgend at 1.15pm.
No flowers please, but if wished in lieu donations to the 'Wales Air Ambulance' c/o Thomas Brothers, Mitson Cottage, Llandough, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7LR.

WHITEHEAD
Penry

Peacefully on 18th June at the Manor House Nursing Home, St Hilary.
Very loving father, grandfather and great grandfather, will be greatly missed by family and friends.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday June 25, service and interment 2.00pm at St Hilary Church.

Public Notices

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH) WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Vacancy exists on the above named Council
ABERTHIN WARD
The Council, in accordance with Section 21(1)(a) Representation of the People Act 1985, shall fill this vacancy by way of co-option.

Any* qualifying Local Government elector who is interested in the possibility of being co-opted onto the Town Council should inform the undersigned in writing no later than **1.00 pm Friday 9th July 2010**.

*Please note that it is not a requirement to reside within the Ward.

Dated this 24th June 2010.

Mr Andrew Davies, Town Clerk, Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council, Town Hall, 21 High Street, COWBRIDGE CF71 7AD

Public Notices

VALE of GLAMORGAN / BRO MORGANNWG

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
VALE OF GLAMORGAN CONSTITUENCY

I, the undersigned, Acting Returning Officer for the above constituency hereby give notice that I have received the returns and declaration as to election expenses of the under-mentioned candidates and election agents:-

Candidate	Election Agent
Alun Hugh Cairns	Sarah Isobel Sharpe
Alana Elizabeth Davies	Christopher Elmore
John Harrold	L. Huson
Ian James Johnson	Steffan William
Kevin Mahoney	Kevin Mahoney
Eluned Sian Parrott	Benjamin Lloyd
Rhodri Hugh Thomas	Rhodri Thomas

These returns and declarations (including the accompanying documents) can be inspected at The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RU during office hours within the next two years.

Acting Returning Officer
Dated: 20 June 2010
Printed & Published by the ACTING RETURNING OFFICER, VALE OF GLAMORGAN, CIVIC OFFICES, HOLTON ROAD, BARRY, VALE OF GLAMORGAN CF63 4RU

ETHOLIAD SENEDDOL
ETHOLAETH BRO MORGANNWG

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Ymgeisydd	Asiant Etholiad
Alun Hugh Cairns	Sarah Isobel Sharpe
Alana Elizabeth Davies	Christopher Elmore
John Harrold	L. Huson
Ian James Johnson	Steffan William
Kevin Mahoney	Kevin Mahoney
Eluned Sian Parrott	Benjamin Lloyd
Rhodri Hugh Thomas	Rhodri Thomas

Cewch archwilio'r cofnodion a'r datganiadau hyn (a'r holl ddogfennau cysylltiedig) yn Swyddfeydd Dinesig Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Heol Holton, y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF63 4RU ar unrhyw adeg y bydd y swyddfa ar agor yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf.

Swyddog Canlyniadau Gweithredol
Dyddiedig: 20 Mehefin 2010
Argraffwyd a chyhoeddwyd gan y SWYDDOG CANLYNIADAU GWEITHREDOL BRO MORGANNWG, SWYDDFEYDD DINESIG, HEOL HOLTON, Y BARRI, BRO MORGANNWG CF63 4RU

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Jamie Richards of Barry Island

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GLAMORGAN FARMERS' GOLF SOCIETY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Winner Keith Walker and sponsor Iswlyn Rees.

ABOVE: Aubrey Bowen, Raymond Thomas, Mrs Dilys Thomas and Mrs Maureen Bowen.

Farmer's wife Caroline Thomas with Mrs Sally Jarvis.

ABOVE: Neil McLean, Tim Jarvis and Clive Thomas.

MEMBERS of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society recently attended a mid-summer party at the home of society captain Gino Cocco to celebrate 25 years of playing monthly golf.

Formed in 1985 by a group of people with agricultural connections, the society, which meets throughout the year on the last Thursday of the month, has recently completed its 312th meeting and, during the last 25 years, has visited more than 100 different courses.

Many of the founder members, including former president Gwyn Evans, Islwyn Rees, Griff Morgan, Dai John, Geraint Davies, Chris Rooney, David Williams, Aubrey Thomas, Arwyn John and Wille Morgan are still competing and, as GEM readers of our monthly reports will have noticed, are still quite successful.

The society was delighted that two former society captains who no longer take part, Graham Walker and Tom Thomas, were able to attend the very enjoyable evening of celebration with excellent food supplied by 'James at Home Caterers' and music by society karaoke king Trevor Wooding.

Well done Keith

The most recent meeting, held at St Mellons Golf Club near Cardiff, attracted 33 competitors, all competing for the Shrieviality Cup and many quality prizes donated by former High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Mr Islwyn Rees.

Having recently returned a net 74 when playing off the Duncan Putter tees at his home club Southerndown, Islwyn, now approaching his 80th birthday, had high hopes of winning his own trophy – which he did back in 2004.

Unfortunately for Islwyn, Keith Walker, also a previous winner of this trophy in 1984 and 1996, and who has attended more meetings than any other member (288), had other ideas.

A superior back nine by Keith to finish with a net 72 pushed Islwyn into second place.

Aubrey Thomas, net 73, finished third and Robert Thomas, net 74, finished fourth.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Keith Wilding (twice), Keith James, Robert Thomas and also guest Barrie Melhuish, who ended a fine day by also winning the guest section with a net 70. Gerry Davies finished second in the guest section with a net 72.

Neil McLean again finished in the prizes, this time by correctly guessing 35 balls would remain out on this well-maintained parkland course to win the 'Premier Turf' sponsored lost ball sweep.

Finally, a very surprised Tony McCarthy won the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive competition.

The society's next meeting is at Henbury Golf Club near Bristol, when members will be competing for the PJC International Classic Trophy, kindly sponsored by Mr John Caines of Payton, Jewell & Caines Estate Agents of Bridgend.

The late Mr Colin Humphreys

Society members wish to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Mr Colin Humphreys who passed away recently following a heart attack.

Colin, a very popular member of the society who won the Shrieviality Cup back in 2006, will be very sadly missed.

TMc

LLANTWIT LADIES BOWLS

Two away wins for the ladies

THE ladies travelled to two away matches, and the first was at Porthcawl in the Cowbridge Challenge Shield.

The team won on one rink, lost the other two rinks by just one shot, but secured the overall score and gained six points.

The rinks were: Liz Crouch,Val Baelz, May Davies and Pat Cook (24-13); Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Carol Willmot (16-17); Edna Hardie, Barbara Lewis, Etta Gray and Jean Voss (14-15).

On Thursday they travelled to Rhoose for a league match, where a new artificial surface has been laid. The team were not sure about how it was going to play, but managed to win on all rinks and gain 10 points.

Etta Gray's rink were up 17-0 at the ninth end, then Rhoose started to fight back but the final score was 21-12.

The other two rinks were fairly even throughout the match, with Llantwit pulling ahead in the later stages.

The rinks were: Barbara Lewis, Val Baelz, Eryl Nicholls and May Davies (17-10); Edna Hardie, Margaret Horgan, Pat Cook and Etta Gray (21-12); Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Carol Willmot and Peggy Pike (18-10).

KJ

Teenage fencer takes part in elite competition

FENCER George Hawksworth (16) of Penllyn near Cowbridge has been selected to compete on behalf of Wales at the Sainsbury's UK School Games, hosted by the north east of England.

An ecstatic Hawksworth said: "I think it's great that I have been selected for the Sainsbury's UK School Games because it is a wonderful opportunity to experience a multisport event. I would like to think I have a chance with an individual and a team medal."

Hawksworth will fence against the UK's school-aged elite in the men's individual and team epee at the Silksworth Community Pool, Tennis & Wellness Centre from September 2-5.

The 2010 Sainsbury's UK School Games is the pinnacle sports event for young people competing in the UK and will see 1,600 elite school-aged athletes descend on the north east for four days of exciting competition across 10 sports.

SULLY ART SALE

THE Sully Painting Group is holding its annual art exhibition at the Jubilee Hall, off Smithies Avenue, Sully, on Friday, June 25, 6pm to 9pm and Saturday, June 26, 10am to 6pm.

Twenty per cent of the sales will be donated to two charities – Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and the local Alzheimer's Soceity.

Refreshments, raffles and a table top sale will also be available, cash from which will be included in the donations.

LLANTWIT YOUTH ARE PROMOTED

AFTER a successfull season, Llantwit Major Youth have gained promotion to Blues League BB for next season.

The team played 11 leagues game through the season, scoring an impressive 405 points and only conceeding 119, with three games stopped before the final whistle due the 50-point rule.

The team finished as champions of the Blues League BD, playing some quite spectacular rugby – from the younger members who have come into the squad and who have made their presence felt – to the older boys who played excellent experienced rugby.

It has all been pulled together by captain Joe Hartley and vice-captain Josh Austin, who stood in for Joe while he was out injured.

Young players who played well this season were Tom Silva the top try scorer with 34, and Matt Roberts with 33, who also played for the Blues under-18s.

Geraint David has been one of the most improved players. For an under-16s hooker last season to go into under-19s at prop and hold his own was a big ask, but he has proved he is one to watch for the future.

Last week, at the Cardiff and District presentation evening, the boys were presented with their League Champions trophy and winners' medals.

Also, Josh Austin was presented with a Cardiff and District tie for representing the under-19s squad who got to the final of the cup.

On April 30, the youth went on tour to Newquay for a long weekend at a tournament hosted by Launceston RFC, which also included Plymouth and Hemel Hempstead.

The first game game was against Launceston Youth, and the team won 14 -5.

The second game was against Plymouth who were a very big team for under-19 rugby, but Llantwit started well, scoring a couple of tries through Matt Roberts and Tom Silva, It finished in a 24 - 12 win.

The third game, against Hemel Hempstead, was also a tough game but the boys came out 14 - 0 winners.

In the final against Launceston, the team played their best rugby of the season, winning 44 – 0, with Hemel Hempstead cheering for Llantwit!

On May 21, the club held its presentation evening.

Player of the Season was Marcus Pearce, who in every game never seems to take a backward step.

The Most Improved player was Ryan Evans who has a very good season at scrum half and also at full back when Marcus was playing for the first team,

Clubman of the Year went to Mike Myers who believe it or not has played everywhere this season, starting at centre, then wing, flanker and No 8.

Further game injuries meant he also played prop and hooker and he never looked out of place, an exceptional all rounder!

The final trophy went to the young player of the season, a difficult choice between Matt Roberts, Geraint David and top try scorer Tom Silva.

However, for his defensive tackling and his attacking lines of running, the winner was Matt Roberts.

The coaches, Graham Williams, Simon Hill, Les Dixon and Martin Pilcher would like to say to the boys that it has been a pleasure working with an exceptional group of youngsters, and well done on a brilliant season.

For those moving up to seniors rugby, good luck and enjoy it, and for the rest of you we will see you soon for next season.

Llantwit Major Youth RFC has had more than 50 years of rugby and has just had one of its best years.

A spokesman said: "We want to continue with this growth and make us one of the best youth sections in Wales. If any youngster wants to play rugby at a higher level, then come to Llantwit Major and grow with us and enjoy your rugby."

MP

Cowbridge ladies earn moral victory

COWBRIDGE ladies faced two matches, the first away to Porthcawl Prince of Wales BC for the Cowbridge Challenge Shield.

The game ended with both teams scoring a total of 46 shots, although the game was deemed a draw it was a moral victory for Cowbridge, having won on two of the three rinks.

Rink scores: Pauline McAllen's team 20–12, Janet Legg's team 12–21 and Shirley Wilkinson's team 14–13. It was a good team performance away from home.

For the second game of the week at home, and laying for a league position, the ladies welcomed Barry Athletic ladies.

Using their knowledge of the home green, Cowbridge won on all three rinks, and by 72 shots to the visitors 27.

Joan Bradley's rink outscored their opponents by 34 shots to 5. Joan was well supported by captain Diane Purnell leading Glenys Davies at two and Pauline McAllen at three.

Other rink scores: May Jones' team 15–12 and Ann Jarvis' team 23–10.

Both of the men's games last week were away. The first, a Munro Cup game at Llantwit Major, ended with a win for the home team by 78 shots to Cowbridge's 53.

Cowbridge did, though, have one winning rink and two points.

Captain Norman Wilkinson's team, with Charles Sanders leading, John Trott at two, Steve Dickens at three and Norman skip, won 10–15.

Losing rink scores: Michael Bradley's team 17–13, Roger Barwick's team 19–14 and Dennis Snelling's team 32–11.

For the second game, a league match at Senghennydd, the men achieved a rare away victory by 86 shots to Senghennydd's 76.

This was particularly pleasing as a few regular team members were not available.

Although Cowbridge won on two and lost on two of the rinks, the margin of victory on the two winning rinks was such that Cowbridge gained 10 valuable away points.

Rink scores on the winning rinks were as follows: Dennis Snelling's team – Mansel Davey lead, Brian Elsey at two, John Jones at three and Dennis skip, 33–15.

Norman Wilkinson's team – Roger Brewer lead, Steve Dickens at two, Michael Bradley at three and Norman skip, 29–7.

Losing rink scores: Roger Barwick's team 9–31, and David Jones' team 15–23.

Those regulars that missed out last weekend will have to fight for their places. Hopefully, the selectors will have additional names from which to choose for the next away game on July 3.

MB

Vale trainers in the winning enclosure

EVERGREEN Cowbridge trainer Bryn Palling had a 20-1 winner at Windsor on June 7.

His five-year-old *Crazy Chris*, ridden by Welsh jockey David Probert, landed the Win A Holiday With Sun Int Handicap over a mile scoring by a short head from the joint favourite *Night Lily* with *Saturn Way* another short head away in third place.

On the same day at Newton Abbot, Llancarfan's Evan Williams saddled his 10th winner in two weeks when scoring with *Mac Halen* and *Five Out Of Five*.

The former, ridden by Donal Fahy, took the AtTheRacesSky 415 Handicap Hurdle and the latter, partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney, the AtTheRaces Virgin 534 Novices Hurdle.

Mac Halen's owner Keith Lowry, said: "The last time my horse ran here, he crashed out and they put the screens up all around him – but luckily he was just badly winded and he got up and walked away."

Meanwhile, racing writer Michael Tanner

has turned his hand to fiction and his first racing novel, *The Tinman's Farewell*, which is based on the legendary jockey Fred Archer, has been much praised by fellow racing writer and former jockey Brough Scott.

He says: "This is so good and big a story that it really ought to be true. After a few pages you will probably believe that it is."

The blurb describes it as "A rough and raunchy ride exposing the dark underbelly of the glamorous Victorian racing scene in a taut fact-based story".

Signed copies are available from the author at MichaelRTanner@ymail.com or www.authorhouse.co.uk at £6.80.

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"The iconic status of Volkswagen vehicles is well documented, with the brand being renowned for its quality build, reliability and high-residual value.

"This new used car programme makes all the difference between buying a car you really want, rather than just the best car that you could find," said Craig.

Used car confidence

Craig said: "Buying a Bespoke used car from Sinclair's is about confidence and flexibility. You can be confident in your vehicle's history and quality, and flexible about your car's specification, allowing you to change your mind, even if it's something as simple as your car not fitting into the garage.

"The new benefits of the programme will make the Volkswagen ownership experience easier than ever before.

"All Bespoke used cars come with a choice of one of the following: one-year Volkswagen Roadside Assistance, three years' MOT cover, MOT tests for life or £100 worth of accessories, free of charge. Plus a number of factory fitted motoring gadgets."

Craig added: "Motorists can receive total assurance, as all of our added extras are in addition to our existing multi-point inspection which guarantees the vehicle's identity, mileage, service history, plus checks any outstanding finance agreements and police records."

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THE Welsh Blood Service is holding the following donor sessions in the area next month:

Old School, South Road, Sully, Thursday, July 1, 10am to 6pm.

Old Pioneers Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, Tuesday, July 6, 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 6pm.

Trinity Church Centre, John Street, Porthcawl, Thursday, July 15, 10am to 6pm; Wednesday, July 21, 10am to 6pm; Thursday, July 22, 10am to 4pm.

Contact www.welshblood.org.uk or telephone 01443 622000 for further information.

Athletic youngsters' good form

BARRY Athletic Under-11s (347) beat Vale (261), by 86 runs.

Joel and Lewis hit three boundaries apiece and there were wickets for Saul, Joel, Sam and Cameron, and a great spell of bowling by Evan Wells, taking three wickets for eight runs giving him the man of the match award.

BARRY WANDERERS

Barry Wanderers (252) lost to Barry Athletic under-11s (316), by 64 runs. Wickets were hard to come by, highlights were wickets for Sam, Calvin and Kieran but all the bowlers maintained good line to keep the score down.

Sam Hopkins (20 not out) and Calvin Fahiya (16 not out) the first pair, managed a partnership of 54 and set the Athletic well on the way to victory.

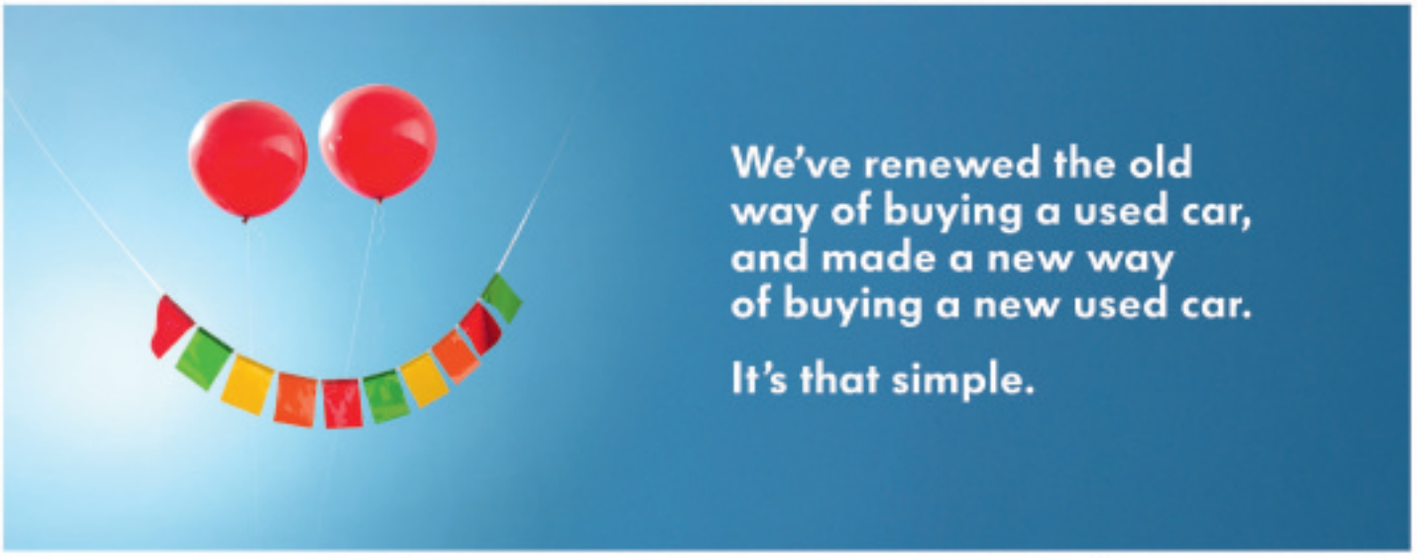
The Wanderers managed to settle down after the first pair and James, Holly and Daffyd were the pick of the bowlers with the latter picking up a great lbw, which was well deserved. Man of the match was Calvin Fahiya.

PENTYRCH

Barry Athletic under-11s (271) beat Pentyrch (253) by 18 runs in what was to be a nail biter. Batting first, Sam and Calvin got the boys off to a solid start and although the running between the wickets was risky at times, the loss of wickets did not deter the Barry the side from posting a decent total of 271. Highlights were 13 no for Kieran Ferriday and Rhys Woolmer making double figures.

There was some great ground fielding by all the players and the score was going in line with the Barry total, but there were two key moments that decided the match, a ninth over wicket maiden by Sam Hopkins and in the final over, Keiron Ferriday took a caught and bowled which put the danger man Matthew Meakin at the bowlers end. All the bowlers did well, with Sam Hopkins and Kieron the pick. Man of the match was Kieron Ferriday.

Training is now on Saturday mornings at Barry Athletic, from 11am - 12.30pm, all new players are welcome.



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08	Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life 5dr in Silver, 9,500 miles	£139	£6995

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	TIGRA		
07	Tigra 1.4 Exclusiv in Star Silver, 18,000 miles	£109	£5295
	VECTRA/INSIGNIA/SIGNUM		
57	Vectra 1.8 Design 5dr in Pannacotta, 18,250 miles	£159	£7995
08	Vectra 1.9 (150) Diesel Elite 5dr, full leather, 20,000 miles	£239	£11495
58	Vectra 1.8 Life 5dr in Star Silver, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles	£159	£7995
09	Insignia 1800 Exclusiv 5dr in Sovereign Silver, 26,500 miles	£239	£11995
	ZAFIRA		
56	Zafira 1.8 Sri 7 Seater Silver Lightning 37,000 Miles	£139	£6995
08	Zafira 1.7 CDTi 110 Exclusiv, 15,000 miles	£205	£10495
58	Zafira 1.6 Life 5dr 7-seater, 20,000 miles in Star Silver	£184	£9495
	OTHER MAKES		
08	Clio 1.2 Expression 3dr Metallic Yellow 38,000 Miles		£3995
54	Ford StreetKa Luxury 1.6 Convertible in Silver, leather interior, 47,000 miles		£5995
06	Honda Accord 2.0 VTEC Executive Estate Grey 96,000 Miles	£119	£6495
55	Megane Grand Scenic Dynamique 1.9DCI Electric Blue 42,000 miles Twin Roofs	£115	£6295
55	Mitsubishi Shogun Sport exeir ior 2.5 TD Manual, in Silver, 44,500 miles, leather, alloys	£134	£6995
56	Ford Ka 1.3 Style, in grey, 34,000 miles	£85	£3995
56	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr, in Black, 43,000 miles	£83	£4295
56	Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3dr in Silver, 32,300 miles	£139	£5995
08	Ford Focus 1.6ccc Style 100 5dr Black Choice	£143	£6495
07	Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5dr in Silver, 39,000 miles	£89	£4995
07	Toyota Auris 1.6 TR AUTO in Silver, 12,000 miles	£149	£6995
07	Toyota Yaris 1.3 Zino 3dr in Black, 6,000 miles	£145	£6795
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Car shown is a Journey 2.0 CRD RT Manual £22,595 OTR. *Range pricing of £16,995 refers to Journey 2.4 SE Manual, including Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), First registration fee and VAT. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £450 including VAT. †Excluding SE models. **RT models only. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (06/10). ††Promotion available on Dodge Journey models registered between 4th June and 30th June 2010 at participating dealers. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. [1]Includes £295 fee. Finance subject to status. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Chrysler Group Financial Services, PO BOX 108, Leeds LS27 0WG. Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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SMALL

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09 **09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr.** In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles **£8,495**

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

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06 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr.** In tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, colour coded bumpers, only 41,820 miles.....**£5,295**

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04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr.** In platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles.....**£6,495**

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01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr.** In platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles.....**£3,995**

01 **Y VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4S 3-dr.** In reflex silver met with Pepe interior, sunroof, body coloured bumpers, cd, immobiliser, full VW service history, only 68,350 miles **£3,495**

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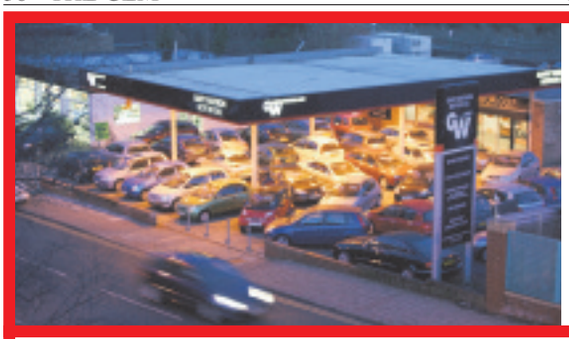

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05 56 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Climate Auto 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, under 13,000 mls £5495
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As the dragon licks its wounds...

CAN A BATTERED WALES RECOVER IN TIME TO TURN THE BLACK TIDE?

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

FOR 15 exhilarating minutes, Welsh fans glued to their TV sets early on Saturday morning, viewed amazing scenes being beamed from New Zealand, as Warren Gatland's tourists, minus several key players, tore into Graham Henry's visibly taken-aback All Blacks, snatching a quick-fire six-point lead through a Stephen Jones drop goal and a long-range penalty by Leigh Halfpenny.

Just as they had done two weeks previously against South Africa at the Millennium Stadium, Wales had come roaring out of the starting blocks from the off, again intent on putting to bed once and for all, their unwelcome reputation as slow Test starters.

Once again, they were determined to disprove a deep-rooted perception that Welsh teams are psychologically in thrall to feared southern hemisphere opponents who had built up a seemingly invincible dominance stretching back an incredible 57 years, with 22 wins out of 25 meetings between the two sides.

Wales have triumphed only three times in the distant past: in 1905 it was 3-0; in 1935 it was 13-12; in 1953 13-8.

After that, it has been a long, depressing cycle of heavy defeats interspersed with the occasional tighter result, such as 19-12 last November in Cardiff.

In Wales' Grand Slam year 2008, the score was 29-9; while in the other Grand Slam year (2005) it was 41-3 – so the omens were not good for the current depleted team's chances.

This time, though, ex-All Black hooker Gatland was insistent that his gifted, though very unpredictable young squad, still had the big guns in their arsenal to cause a major upset in the final match to be played at the famous Carisbrook fortress, before it makes way for a new stadium being built further down the road in Dunedin for next year's Rugby World Cup.

ABOVE: Dan Biggar, who is set to replace the injured Stephen Jones for the second test against New Zealand.

ABOVE: Could Jonathan Davies, get Wales into the winning spirit against the All Blacks?

PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

And so it seemed for the first quarter of an hour, as the Welsh underdogs matched their vaunted opponents man-for-man, with the scrum and the hitherto problem lineout operating smoothly, and providing plenty of possession and territory for the tourists.

In fact, this unexpected parity continued throughout the first half as the Welsh players showed commendable energy and appetite for the huge physical challenge they faced against one of the two top teams in the world.

At the interval, the strangely misfiring All Blacks were just six points ahead at 15-9, thanks to two break-out tries (with a conversion and penalty by man-of-the-match Dan Carter) that ominously stemmed from familiar Welsh handling errors.

This indeed proved to be a bleak portent of things to come, for the second half was a totally different story, as the Carter-inspired Kiwis effortlessly stepped up several gears to over run mistake-prone Wales with 27 unanswered points, including three more tries (two sublimely-taken by that man Carter, who also landed two conversions and two penalties).

Once again, this frustrating young Welsh team were partly the architects of their own downfall, faulty execution proving costly at critical junctures; and the lack of a totally ruthless edge was in stark contrast to far more streetwise opponents, who typically grabbed every scoring opportunity that came their way, even after a comfortable victory was assured.

At the end, the scoreboard read 42-9, but the shell-shocked Welsh camp know it could have been far worse and that they have had only a week to prepare for the even greater effort that will be required to stem the remorseless Black tide in the second Test this Saturday.

With further injuries adding to Welsh woes, Gatland has delayed naming his side until today (Thursday) though Scarlets' Jonathan Davies was expected to slot in at centre, while Ospreys' ambitious youngster Dan Biggar was hoping to take over from the injured Stephen Jones at outside half.

Is Gatland musing over further changes to his battered troops? The answer will come later today when the starting line-up is announced.

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL ROUND-UP

Pupils enjoy Wales tennis tournament

St Clare's pupils played against youngsters from all over Wales – next stop Wimbledon?

PUPILS from year 3 at St Clare's School in Porthcawl are pictured with physical education teacher Stephen Martin after playing in the south Wales tennis tournament finals at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

The pupils played against schools from all over Wales and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

World Cup Day at St Clare's

Pupils from year 6 in St Clare's used the recent opening ceremony of the World Cup as an opportunity to learn about the range of different countries participating.

The pupils dressed up in the national colours of each country and learnt key facts about each of the countries.

B Attack's six-goal spree

GREG HOWELL was influential for Bridgend Six-a-side Premier Division table toppers B Attack as they hit Persil Boys for six without reply, taking a massive step towards the title in the process.

Matthew Bowen ensured the championship race goes down to the final night as Croissants comfortably overcame Racing Inter by 4-0.

The top two crossed swords in the First Division and Athletico Brackla secured the title following a 3-2 win over Bulldogs, the latter of whom have the consolation of join the victors in the top flight next campaign.

In the pick of the other games, Inter Wildmill picked up maximum points following a 4-1 humbling of Hardly Athletic.

If anyone is interested in joining the Bridgend 6-a-side Leisure League, they can call 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Premier Division

Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
B Attack	13	38	21
Croissants	13	39	20
Day Sleepers	13	10	18
dunraven	13	-1	12
Hangover Heroes	13	-8	12
The Pie Boys	13	-26	8
Racing Inter	13	-23	7
Persil Boys FC	13	-29	6
Division 1			
Athletico Brackla	13	34	23
Bulldogs	13	9	19
Young Exiles	13	9	14
Dead End Jobs, But Football Gods	13	5	13
Hardly Athletic	13	-3	13
Laleston Lions	13	-8	8
Team Xtreme	13	-16	7
Inter Wildmill	13	-30	7

Porthcawl's football clubs join forces

PORTHCAWL'S two football clubs have decided to join forces – a decision described by both parties as mutually beneficent.

The committee members of both Porthcawl Athletic and Porthcawl Town Athletic Football Club said in a statement: "Norman Harris and Steve Harris recently announced their decision to step back from football management after many years of running Porthcawl Town AFC.

"Both Norman and Steve wanted to ensure the continued future and development of PTAFC and approached Porthcawl Athletic in the hope that they could take over the reins. After a number of consultations, it was agreed that there was a substantially mutual benefit for both clubs to pursue this venture.

"PTAFC gains the benefit of a dynamic management structure which has seen the club double in size since its formation in 2008, and the prospect of a continual influx of quality home-grown, talented players.

"PA have, in return, been gifted with a structure which ensures that today's children can develop from mini football, right through to senior football and then to the Welsh League. Both clubs are now working together to finalise proposed details of the merger.

"Both clubs come under the auspices of Porthcawl Athletic Association who have worked tirelessly over the years to improve the facilities at Locks Lane and have recently seen a number of significant developments, including the new changing room and parking facilities, new fitness apparatus, improved playing facilities such as the senior football pitch and mini football Scansis pitch and approved plans for a new clubhouse with a recreation room and changing facilities for female football."

All Porthcawl Town and Porthcawl Athletic players, old and new, are invited to attend the first training session of the new amalgamated Porthcawl club. There will be three senior teams and an additional two youth teams for next season.

The senior teams will be playing in the Welsh League Division three, the Welsh Reserve League and the Port Talbot Premier Division.

Training starts at 6pm on Tuesday, June 29 at Locks Lane.